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Bangalore Mirror ON SUNDAY

TEMP Max 28 | Min 21 | Humidity 72% Mostly Cloudy Sensex 81,207 | Nifty 24,894 | Gold 1,18,100 | Silver 1,45,599 | Dollar 88.76 | Euro 104.17 | GBP 119.61

Even as people who lost their lives' savings wait to get their money back, authority constituted to probe IMA case has found ways to spend 2% of the money realised — towards meetings, printing, buying journals, postage, repairs and whatnots

WHAT'S YOUR SPENDGAME?

Several investors have got only part of the money they lost

Y Maheswara Reddy
c-y.reddy@timesofindia.com

TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

While hapless investors have been struggling to get their hard-earned money invested in I-Monetary Advisory (IMA) five years ago, the competent authority constituted to investigate the IMA case has been busy finding ways to spend 2 percent of the total money realised.

The competent authority submitted a petition to XCI Additional City Civil & Sessions Judge seeking permission to spend Rs 10 lakh per year to hold meetings with CBI, ED, RBI and other competent authorities.

It has submitted a petition to the Judge seeking a grant of Rs 25 lakh per annum for printing of claim application forms, certificates, and auction documents for Special Officer & Competent Authority (SPLOCA and other competent authority officers.

It has claimed Rs 5 lakh for purchasing newspapers and journals/ books per year and a grant of Rs 2.5 lakh for postages and the purchase of stamps as all summons and notices have to be sent in RPAD and at least 15 percent of respondents

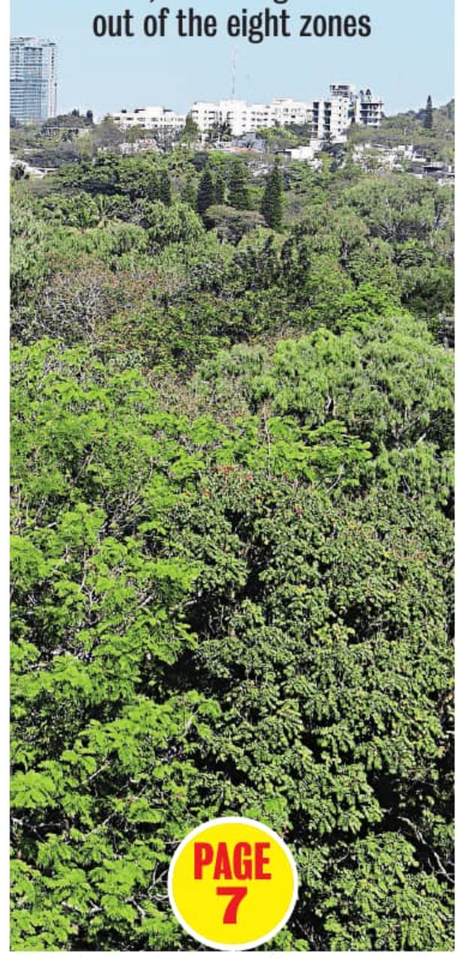
CONTINUED ON PAGE 4 »

File photo of complaints against IMA ponzi scam piled up at Commercial Street Police Station

"I got Rs 5.60 lakh of the Rs 99 lakh I invested so far. I invested all my savings in the IMA expecting good returns but I lost everything. I am in dire need of money —Farooq Ahmed, scam victim

COUNT TREE OUT

Tree census process hits administrative transition hurdle, is trailing in three out of the eight zones



PAGE 7

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NISSAN FINANCE

THINGS TO DO

01 Stories of strength

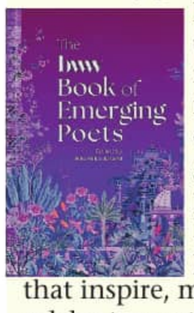
Madhu Ranganthan shares her journey with her special needs daughter Sitara in a first-of-its-kind Bangalore event. She will be in conversation with Upasana Mahtani, founder of The Madras Reading Company. The event celebrates resilience, empathy, and support for special needs families.

Where: St Mark's Hotel, Ashok Nagar; When: October 5, 4 to 5 pm

02 Tunes that heal

The Bangalore Kidney Foundation (BKF), pioneers in renal care since 1979, presents the 20th edition of Dhwani – Pandit Mallikarjun Mansur Hindustani Music Festival. The festival raises funds to provide affordable dialysis to patients, especially those from rural dialysis centres **Where: Bangalore Gayana Samaja, K.R. Road; When: October 5, 9:30 am to 9:15 pm**

03 Voices that inspire



Bangalore Writers Workshop presents its latest anthology featuring 39 emerging global poets. Enjoy poems that inspire, move, and celebrate creativity. **Where: Atta Galatta, Indiranagar; When: October 5, 7 pm to 8:30 pm**

04 Night pulse

Join Satori at SOCIAL for a night of House, Techno, Jungle, and Breakbeat with Chaz, Cash Michael, Source, and Subbu. Limited capacity—reserve your spot for an unforgettable sonic experience. **Where: Social, Indiranagar; When: October 5, 8 pm onwards**

05 Celestial display

Phoenix Mall of Asia presents the India Light Festival 2.0 – Sitaro Ki Diwali, transforming the Plaza into a vibrant festive hub with dazzling star-inspired décor. Featuring immersive installations like Echoes, Tunnel of Colour, Dreamscape, and Chasing Stars, the festival blends art, technology, and imagination for visitors of all ages. **Where: Phoenix Mall of Asia, Yelahanka; When: Now live through Diwali 2025**

Ward's in a name? All dedicated to our icons

Several wards under five new corporations after eminent personalities, freedom fighters, and achievers

Sridhar Vivan
sridhar.vivan
@timesofindia.com

TWEETS @sridharvMirror

Wards including Peenya Andrahalli, Rajajinagar, and Kotteur–Dargah Mohalla have received new dedications. The Western and Southern zones feature most renamings, while historical towns such as Kengeri draw public attention for being left out

From thespian Dr Rajkumar to his son, the late actor Puneeth Rajkumar, and from Vijayanagara king Krishnadevaraya to Mysuru king Nalwadi Krishnaraja Wadiyar, the Greater Bengaluru Authority has renamed several wards under its five new corporations after eminent personalities, freedom fighters, and achievers.

For example, in the Central Bengaluru Corporation, the ward covering the Kalasipalya area has been named after the noted litterateur DV Gundappa. The ward in Jayanagar T Block under South BBMP has been named after former President APJ Abdul Kalam, while the ward covering Kumarswamy Layout 2nd Stage has been named after former Education Minister Maulana Abul Kalam Azad.

The Western Corporation has the highest number of wards named after prominent figures, followed by the Southern zone, while the Central, Northern, and Eastern zones come next. In West BBMP, the wards covering Kamakshipalya, Kempapura Agrahara, and Magadi Road KHB Colony have been named after freedom fighters Mangal Pandey, Sangolli Rayanna, and the Rani of Jhansi, respectively. The Shankarnagar ward has been named after Mysuru Maharaja Nalwadi Krishnaraja Wodeyar, while Bapuji Nagar ward has been named after Vijayanagara king Krishnadevaraya. Similarly, Kanteerava Studio ward has been named after the late actor Dr Puneeth Rajkumar, Dasarahalli–Rajagopalanagar after politician Shantaveri Gopalagowda, Peenya Andrahalli ward as Nadaprabhu Kempegowda Nagar, and Nandini Layout ward after Kittur Rani Chennamma.

The ward covering Laggere has been named Freedom Fighter Ward, while Rajajinagar 4th M Block has been named after Jnanpith awardee DR Bendre. Rajajinagar 6th Block has been named after Kannada thespian Dr Rajkumar, and the ward covering Hosakerehalli and Banashankari 3rd Stage has been named after Swami Vivekananda.

In the South Corporation, Chikkalasandra has been named Sarvabhoumanagar, Koramangala 6th Block after social reformer Annie Besant, BTM Layout 1st Stage after poet laureate Kuvempu with the title "Vishwamanava," and Bommanahalli's KR Layout after former Chief Minister Kengal Hanumanthaiah. In the Central Corporation, Ittige Anjanappa Lane and Chowdappa Road ward has been named after IDP Salappa, while the Manjunath Nagar B Block and Gandhinagar ward has been named after Subhas Chandra Bose.

In North Corporation, Hidayath Nagar has been renamed Samadhana Nagar, HBR Layout 5th Block has been named after educationist Aruna Asaf Ali, and Devarajeevanahalli has been renamed Doddanna Nagar. In East BBMP, Kottur–Dargah Mohalla has been named after poet KS Nissar Ahmed, while Vignana Nagar has been renamed Talakaveri.

Name trouble

Meanwhile, BJP State Kisan Morcha Vice-President M. Rudresh has strongly opposed the omission of Kengeri in the recent GBA ward delimitation and demanded that the name be reinstated. He said Kengeri has been a central hub for Bengaluru's rural communities, with a heritage spanning centuries. The town is home to landmarks such as Bandemath, visited by the Mysuru kings; a well inaugurated by Mahatma Gandhi; the school where former Chief Minister Kengal Hanumanthaiah studied; and the estate of Nobel laureate CV Raman.

"With such a glorious history, it is unfortunate that attempts are being made to erase Kengeri's pride. The government must act immediately to restore the Kengeri ward," Rudresh urged.

Rajarajeshwari Nagar split across three corporations

Bengaluru's draft ward delimitation has sparked criticism, as several Assembly constituencies have been split across multiple corporations, despite the Greater Bengaluru Governance Act 2024 (GBGA) prohibiting such divisions. Rajarajeshwari Nagar, with 19 wards, has been split into three corporations. Dasarahalli's 18 wards are divided between North and West, Padmanabhanagar 14 between South and West, Mahadevapura 24 between South and East, and Yeshwanthpur 12 between South and West. The city now has five corporations with 368 wards, each covering about 25,000 people. Among 28 Assembly constituencies under the GBGA, KR Puram has the most wards (27), followed by Mahadevapura (24), Bommanahalli (20), and Rajarajeshwari Nagar and Bengaluru South (19 each).

Rare caricatures

Visitors at the international exhibition of Gandhi caricatures from archives of and rare editorial cartoons by the legends, at the Indian Cartoon Gallery on Saturday. The exhibition that marks the 75th anniversary celebrations Karnataka Gandhi Smarak Nidhi, will be open till October 31

KEA opens edit window for KSET forms

The Karnataka Examinations Authority (KEA) has announced that candidates who have applied for the Assistant Professor Eligibility Test 2025 (KSET) can make corrections to their online applications until 5:30 pm on October 6. All details except the mobile number can be edited online. Candidates wishing to update their mobile number must submit a fresh application in person at the KEA. The authority has clarified that no further corrections will be allowed after this deadline and that any requests for additional edits will not be entertained, urging applicants to make changes carefully and accurately. **— BMB**

Cough medicine safety alert for kids

In the wake of reported fatalities among children in several North Indian states linked to certain cough syrup formulations, the Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has issued an advisory. The directive urges physicians and healthcare providers to exercise heightened caution when prescribing and dispensing cough syrups to the paediatric population, emphasising rational pharmacotherapy and patient safety in children.

The advisory notes that most acute coughs in children are self-limiting and often resolve without medication. It specifically warns against giving cough and cold medicines to children under 2 years, while their use in children aged 2–5 years is generally not recommended. For older children, medications should only be administered after careful clinical evaluation, following appropriate dosing, for the shortest effective duration, and avoiding multi-drug combinations. Healthcare providers are encouraged to prioritise non-pharmacological measures such as adequate hydration, rest, and supportive care. The Ministry also emphasised that all medicines should be procured from manufacturers adhering to Good Manufacturing Practices and formulated with pharmaceutical-grade excipients. **— BMB**

CRIME FILES

Vehicle thieves arrested

Parappana Agrahara police have arrested two men involved in multiple two-wheeler thefts across the city, recovering 11 stolen vehicles worth ₹6.50 lakh.

The case first came to light when a resident of Krishna Reddy Layout lodged a complaint on January 13, stating that his parked two-wheeler had been stolen the previous night. A case of theft was registered at Parappana Agrahara Police Station.

During the investigation, police gathered information from informants and pursued leads, leading to the apprehension of the two accused on September 28 near Huskur Fruit Market.

Both men confessed to stealing the complainant's vehicle and admitted to several other thefts across Bengaluru.

The accused disclosed that the stolen two-wheelers were being kept on an open vacant land behind Huskur Fruit Market for resale. Acting on their information, police recovered 10 additional two-wheelers, bringing the total recovery to 11 vehicles valued at ₹6.5 lakh.

Seven cases cracked

The arrests have led to the detection of seven theft cases across Parappana Agrahara, Electronic City, Koramangala, Avalahalli, Surya City, and Hebbagodi police stations. Authorities are still tracing owners of four remaining vehicles.

Both accused were remanded to judicial custody on 28th September.

—BMB

Serial thefts

Thhe Kumbalgodu Police arrested two men involved in multiple vehicle thefts, recovering seven two-wheelers and a car valued at ₹5.17 lakh.The case emerged when a resident of Vaishnavi Nagar filed a complaint on September 8, reporting that his two-wheeler, parked and locked outside his house the previous night, had been stolen. A case of two-wheeler theft was registered at Kumbalgodu Police Station.

Acting on credible information from an informant, police apprehended the two accused on September 28 near a hotel on Mysore Road along with a car used in the crime. During interrogation, both confessed to stealing the complainant's two-wheeler and several other vehicles across Bengaluru. The accused revealed that the stolen vehicles were kept in an open ground at Bhimanakuppe for resale. Police recovered seven two-wheelers on September 29, along with the car, bringing the total recovered value to ₹5.17 lakh.

The arrests have led to the detection of five theft cases across Kumbalgodu, Thalaghattapura, and Kodigehalli police station limits. —BMB

Woman kills self after lover's infidelity

A 38-year-old woman ended her life after discovering her lover with another woman near a lodge in Karnataka Housing Board (KHB) Colony under Magadi Road police limits on Thursday evening.

The deceased, Yashodha, a resident of Kamakshipalya, was a mother of two and reportedly in an extra-marital relationship with Vishwanath, an auditor, for the past eight years. Vishwanath, who also resides in the same locality, had recently distanced himself from Yashodha after she introduced him to one of her female friends, with whom he allegedly began visiting lodges.

38-year-old booked room in same lodge where her paramour was meeting with another woman

According to the police, Yashodha learned about their affair and booked ar room in the same lodge that Vishwanath and the woman frequently visited. A confrontation ensued on Thursday evening, and around 6:30 pm, Yashodha took the extreme step in the lodge room. The hotel staff discovered her body around 10 pm and immediately informed the police. Magadi Road police have registered a case of unnatural death and are investigating the circumstances of the incident. Investigation is ongoing. —BMB

Human skeleton found at apartment construction site

Construction workers at the Samruddhi Apartment complex in Kothanur stumbled upon a human skeleton on the fourth floor of the building on Friday night. The deceased, estimated to be a 35-40-year-old man, was found dressed in a T-shirt and jeans, and police believe he may have died 6-8 months ago.

Victim is believed to have died about 6-8 months ago

According to officials, the skeleton had been partially covered with a bag and soil. Workers discovered it while cleaning the construction site and immediately informed the police. The building owner had halted construction for several months but resumed recently.

Police have retrieved the skeleton and sent it to the Forensic Science Laboratory (FSL) for detailed examination. Efforts are underway to determine the identity of the deceased and the cause of death. The investigation is ongoing. —BMB

Case against KRS party workers for 'illegal' protest march

The Upparpet Police have registered a case against members of the KRS. Party for conducting a protest march on a public road in Gandhinagar on September 30, in violation of a High Court order.

Amit Rebello, President of the Bengaluru West District of the KRS Party, had submitted a request on September 29 seeking permission to hold a "peaceful protest at Freedom Park" to raise awareness about people's rights. The police rejected the request, citing prior permissions granted for two other protests at Freedom Park and the High Court's order that protests, dharnas, and strikes in Bengaluru must be limited to Freedom Park. The party was formally notified in writing.

Ignoring the directions, KRS Party office bearers reportedly mobilised 60–70 workers through SMS, WhatsApp, and other social media platforms to conduct a protest march on 6th Cross and 2nd Main Road in Gandhinagar. The march disrupted traffic and public movement.

The accused were arrested and later released on station bail. Following their release, they allegedly issued death threats to investigating officers and circulated false information on social media. Police have invoked additional legal provisions, and the investigation is ongoing. —BMB

ED attaches properties worth ₹423 crore in Ozone Urbana case

Case involves financial irregularities, cheating buyers

The Directorate of Enforcement (ED), Bengaluru, has issued a Provisional Attachment Order under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), 2002, attaching immovable properties worth ₹423.38 crore in connection with its investigation into M/s Ozone Urbana Infra Developers Pvt. Ltd. and its promoters. The order, dated October 4, follows allegations of financial irregularities and defrauding homebuyers.

The investigation was initiated based on multiple FIRs filed under sections 419, 420, and 120B of the Indian Penal Code in Bengaluru, along with a FIR by the CBI, EO-I, New Delhi, on the Supreme Court's direction. The company is accused of failing to complete construction projects on time and not handing over possession to buyers, despite collecting pre-construction EMIs and booking amounts. The ED alleged that the funds, totaling ₹927.22 crore, were diverted to other group entities and personal accounts of the promoter, Sh. S Vasudevan, and his family.

Earlier, on September 1, the ED conducted search operations at 10 premises linked to the company and seized documents indicating diversion and misappropriation of project funds. The properties attached include unsold flats from Avenue (92 units) and Aqua 2 (13 units) projects, 4.5 acres of commercial land, and personal properties of S Vasudevan and his wife, including 179 acres at Kannehalli Village, Mudigere. The ED stated that the attachment aims to safeguard the interests of homebuyers while further investigation under PMLA continues..

—BMB

Citizens alarmed over reduced Home Guards presence at lakes

Seegehalli and Gangashetty Lakes also suffer from missing personnel, highlighting inconsistent security across Bengaluru's major water bodies

Garima Prasher
garima.prasher
@timesofindia.com

TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

Ganesha idol seen in lake as Home Guards stay absent

Regular visitors to some of the lakes in the city have expressed concerns about the lack of security at these water bodies. For instance, walkers at Doddabommasandra Lake in the North City Corporation area say the lake has not been under surveillance by Home Guards since October 1.

"There used to be three or four Home Guards earlier, but they have been missing since October 1. Security issues are already cropping up. On Saturday morning, I noticed a Ganesha idol immersed in the lake instead of in the kalyani. If Home Guards were present, they would not have allowed this," said a member of Friends of Lakes, who is also a resident of Nanjappa Circle. The issue of missing Home Guards has also been reported from lakes in the South and East City Corporation limits.

Regular walkers at Puttenahalli Lake in JP Nagar say security has been absent for nearly two weeks.

"I visit the lake six days a week, but I have not seen Home Guards for nearly two weeks now. The situation was better when the lake was being managed by the Puttenahalli Neighbourhood Lake Improvement Trust (PNLIT). It was manned by Home Guards in two shifts. But nowadays there are no security personnel. The gates are also not locked," said T N Balachander, a regular walker.

Regular visitors to Seegehalli and Gangashetty Lakes near KR Puram also complained of similar issues.

Citizens say Home Guards play an important role in the management of lakes while ensuring security on their premises. In their absence, various safety concerns may arise.

City corporations deny citizens' claims

"In the North City Corporation, 141 Home Guards are currently ensuring security and management at 33 lakes. An email was sent to the Karnataka Home Guard Department on October 1, requesting the continuation of their services until 10 October. From October 11 onwards, 50 private security personnel will be deployed, and the number of Home Guards will be reduced to nine. The tender process to implement this change is under way," said a senior official from the North City Corporation.

Officials from the West City Corporation also confirmed, "We wrote to the Home Guard Department on October 3 to renew the contract to ensure that Home Guard services at lakes continue," said a senior official.

GBA yet to send official request: Karnataka Home Guard

According to the Karnataka Home Guard Department, while they are yet to receive an official letter from the Greater Bengaluru Authority for renewal of the contract to continue Home Guards' services at the city's lakes, verbal instructions have been given to continue the work until October 6. "We have not received any request from the GBA to renew the contract. However, verbal instructions have been issued to Home Guards to continue with their services for the lakes in the city. We have not stopped our services despite the lack of communication and the formal renewal of the contract," the Director General and Commandant General, Office of the Home Guards, Karnataka, clarified.

Authorities claim deployments are under way, lapses in contract renewal between civic agencies and the Home Guard Department have disrupted regular surveillance

Notably, the previous contract between the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) and the Home Guard office was from July to September 2025, and it has not yet been renewed.

'Complete probe and help investors get their money back'

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

are residents of other states or foreign countries. The competent authority has also stated expenses towards repairs, servicing, and maintenance of movable properties like vehicles, electronics, and furniture. In the case of vehicles, repayment of damaged tyres, batteries, and spark plugs, including import charges.

It has also claimed that, in many cases, there are one or more special expenses, such as testing of purity of gold and precious stones, spot auction of perishable or hazardous materials, storage charges of valuable items, fumigation of seized building, restoration of disconnected electricity and water supply and service charges for conducting an auction of shares and bitcoins on exchanges concerned.

Meanwhile, hapless investors are shocked that the authority wants to spend 2 percent of the total money realised. "I appeal to the state government and competent authority to complete the investigation and ensure all the investors get their hard-earned money invested in the IMA," said Syed Mohibur Rahman, who had invested Rs 5 lakh.

Appealing to the authorities concerned, Balkees Begum, who invested Rs 8 lakh in the IMA, said that she received only Rs 21,000 (Rs 13,000 and Rs 8,000) so far. "I am finding it difficult to make ends meet. I lost my father recently. I have no other means. It will be a great help for me if the government helps me to get back my money," said Balkees Begum.

Demanding the competent authority to complete the investigation and help the investors to get back their money, Farooq Ahmed from Kalaburagi said that he invested Rs 99 lakh in the IMA. "I got Rs 5.60 lakh (Rs 4 lakh and Rs 1.60 lakh) till date. I invested all my savings in the IMA expecting good returns but I lost everything. I am in dire need of money," said Farooq Ahmed.

Probe into lavish birthday celebration by rowdy in jail

The controversy surrounding Parappana Agrahara Prison continues, as videos of Sarjapur rowdy sheeter Srinivas, alias Gubbachchi Seena, celebrating his birthday in jail have gone viral on social media. The footage, showing Srinivas with his associates enjoying the celebration, has prompted a formal complaint to the Additional Director General of Police (ADGP) of the Prisons Department, B. Dayanand, alleging undue privileges granted to the inmate. The videos show Srinivas, a notorious rowdy from Sarjapur, cutting a cake with fellow inmates. Srinivas is lodged in prison in connection with the murder of rowdy sheeter Venkatesh in January this year. The celebration video is believed to have been uploaded from an Instagram account named Sagar. Prison officials claimed such an event cannot take place without staff knowledge, while checks suggest the video may have been recorded months ago. Following a complaint, senior officials have been directed to conduct an internal inquiry. — BMB

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Fiery footpath

Lingarajapuram

A cluster of nearly a dozen biryani and kebab outlets on Oil Mill Road, Lingarajapuram, has become a safety hazard. Gas stoves spill out onto the footpath, leaving no space for pedestrians and raising concerns about what might happen if a cylinder were to burst.

Choked lane

Jyothi Nagar

Near the Raghavendra Swamy Mutt in HAL, a narrow road used by tempos and two-wheelers is becoming even more congested. Hawkers have encroached on nearly one-third of the stretch, leaving no footpath and forcing pedestrians to jostle for space with vehicles.

Bumpy stretch

Bilekahalli Main Road

Potholes near HDFC Bank, Vijaya Bank Layout, are causing inconvenience and posing risks to commuters.

Thousands of commerce graduates await teaching posts

Despite completing required education and TET, commerce graduates remain barred from permanent teaching posts, highlighting flaws in recruitment rules

Bangalore Mirror Bureau
mybangaloremirror
@timesofindia.com

TWEETS @BangaloreMirror

Even after completing B Ed and clearing the Teacher Eligibility Test (TET), thousands of B Com and M Com graduates continue to be denied opportunities to become government teachers. Across Karnataka, more than 10,000 such graduates remain in limbo, excluded from senior primary and high school teacher recruitments. While they are permitted to work as guest teachers, they are barred from securing permanent government appointments.

Despite repeated appeals to amend the Cadre Recruitment (CR) rules and formally include them in the eligibility list, the government has not taken meaningful action. With high school teacher recruitment now on the horizon, these candidates have once again urged authorities to resolve the long-pending issue.

Graduates who pursued B Ed after completing B Com or M Com argue that they have specialized in subjects such as English and Social Science during their training. They receive marks for teaching these subjects during their B Ed courses, yet they remain ineligible for official recruitment.

"It has been five years since I completed my B Ed after B Com, but I was not considered for senior primary school recruitment. I am still unemployed," said Mahesh, a B Com B Ed graduate. Suresh, a B Ed college lecturer, added that every two years, nearly 2,500 B Ed graduates pass out, yet their aspirations remain unfulfilled.

Earlier, completing a B Ed was even mandatory to become a PU college lecturer, and B Com graduates were allowed to pursue the course. Now, however, despite possessing the required qualifications, they find themselves excluded.

The graduates stress that anyone who has completed the necessary education and training should be granted equal opportunity. Without urgent government intervention, they warn, a large pool of qualified teaching talent will remain wasted.

BCom and MCom B Ed graduates demand inclusion in official recruitment

Glitch in the metro matrix

Payment deducted but tickets not issued, despite assurances, refunds delayed — commuters in lurch as BMRCL's online ticketing system flailing

Atiya Firdos
c-syeda.atiya
@timesofindia.com

TWEETS @BangaloreMirror

Several Namma Metro commuters have raised concerns over frequent technical glitches in the online ticketing system, which often results in payments being deducted but tickets not issued. What adds to their frustration, they say, is the lack of timely refunds despite repeated assurances from the authorities.

Firsthand accounts:

"I take the metro from Kengeri to Cubbon Park almost every day. The fare is usually 60, and I always get my ticket before entering," said a private firm employee while speaking to BM, requesting anonymity. "But on three occasions, the server went down or the network glitched, and I never got a ticket. When I reached out to customer care, they said the refund 'will be processed', but that never happened."

A college student also shared a similar experience. "At first, I thought it was just me. But later I found that my friends too have faced the same issue. Refunds are promised but never come through. I've been shortchanged thrice already," the student said.

Many commuters find the WhatsApp ticketing feature and digital ticketing in general, very convenient. However, several have complained about payments being deducted without tickets being issued, tickets getting cancelled without refunds, and server failures that leave them stranded. "I've cancelled metro tickets purchased through WhatsApp on multiple occasions, but the refunds never came through. It's discouraging and makes me hesitant to use mobile ticketing, even though the feature is very convenient when it works," said a passenger who often relies on WhatsApp ticketing.

As per BMRCL norms, commuters are allowed to cancel QR tickets before entering the metro gate

Commuters say such incidents are becoming increasingly common, with some reporting that they have not been provided with refunds anywhere between one and five times, depending on the fare paid.

Why this happens

BMRCL officials have previously acknowledged that technical or server glitches can disrupt the QR ticketing system. Refunds are typically "raised" in such cases and are expected to reflect in the commuter's account within seven business days. However, many passengers maintain that the promised refunds never arrive.

As per BMRCL guidelines, commuters are allowed to cancel QR tickets before entering the metro gate. Once a cancellation is triggered, the system is meant to automatically raise a refund request internally. The refunded amount is supposed to be credited back to the original payment source, whether UPI, net banking, or card, within about seven working days.

Once a QR ticket is cancelled, the system automatically raises a refund request, with the amount supposed to be credited back to the original payment source within seven working days

Customer care clarification

When BM contacted BMRCL's customer care, an executive said such refund issues cannot be resolved directly through the helpline. "We can only assist commuters with immediate concerns while they are at the station. If a refund does not get processed within seven business days, passengers can always escalate the issue by mailing helpdesk@bmrc.co.in," the executive explained.

Despite the formal process in place, commuters argue that the lack of accountability and inconsistent follow-through continues to erode trust in the digital ticketing system, ironically meant to make travel easier.

Yellow Line trains to run every 15 minutes

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Commuters on Namma Metro's Yellow Line may soon get relief, with waiting times between trains expected to reduce from the current 25 minutes to around 15 minutes. Bengaluru Metro Rail Corporation Ltd. (BMRCL) Managing Director Dr Ravishankar, IAS, inspected the fifth train set at the Hebbagodi depot. Once it clears mandatory testing and service trials, the new train will be deployed on the line.

The Yellow Line, connecting RV Road to Bommasandra and inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on August 10, currently operates at long intervals, causing crowding at key stations such as RV Road and Electronic City. The new train will undergo CBTC signaling and night trials before operations. Officials expect that with more trains, overall Metro ridership in Bengaluru could soon cross 11 lakh.

Suicide attempt halts trains

Meanwhile, Metro services on the Green Line were briefly disrupted following another suicide attempt. Around 3.17 pm on Saturday, a man jumped onto the tracks in front of a Madavara-bound train at Nadaprabhu Kempegowda Metro Station. He was rescued promptly and rushed to the hospital for treatment. Services resumed by 3.47 pm after a half-hour disruption, during which operations were limited to Madavara–Rajajinagar and National College–Silk Institute sections.

Hydel projects in scanner after tiger deaths

6 tigers have died in MM Hills in 5 months, prompting calls to halt development projects in eco-sensitive zone

Large carnivore populations in this landscape are under immense pressure due to shrinking habitat

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Conservationist writes to forest minister, saying three forest diversion proposals under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, involve setting up mini hydel projects along the Cauvery River within the administrative jurisdiction of MM Hills Wildlife Division

Following the fresh case of tiger poisoning reported in Male Mahadeshwara (MM) Hills Wildlife Sanctuary on October 2, several development projects proposed in the region have come under the scanner. Wildlife conservationists have expressed concern that large carnivore populations in this fragile landscape are under immense pressure due to shrinking and fragmented habitats, disturbed prey–predator balance, and intensifying human–wildlife conflict.

In view of the death of six tigers in the MM Hills Wildlife Sanctuary over the last five months, a wildlife conservationist has written to Karnataka Forest Minister Eshwar Khandre, urging rejection of forest diversion proposals for three hydel projects located within the eco-sensitive zone of Cauvery Wildlife Sanctuary and MM Hills Wildlife Division.

In his letter to the minister, the conservationist said the urgency of the request stems from the death of five tigers in June 2025 in the Hoogyam Range of MM Hills Wildlife Division—all confirmed as retaliatory killings. The recent poisoning of another tiger on October 3 also appears to be an act of retaliation.

"These tragic incidents highlight the growing pressure on large carnivore populations in this ecologically sensitive landscape. If these diversion proposals are approved, they will further fragment crucial tiger and elephant habitats, intensify human–wildlife conflict, and cause more such incidents in future," said Kulkarni, who authored the petition.

According to the petition, the three forest diversion proposals under consideration of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, pertain to the establishment of mini hydel projects along the Cauvery River within the administrative limits of the MM Hills Wildlife Division. All the proposed sites lie inside the notified Eco-Sensitive Zone (ESZ) of Cauvery Wildlife Sanctuary.

The projects include the renewal of diversion of 4.863 hectares of forest land for the Ranganathaswamy Mini Hydel Project in Chamarajanagar, new diversion of forest land for the Bharachukki Mini Hydel Project in Kollegal, and re-diversion of forest land for the establishment of a 24.50 MWHydro Electric Power Project across the Cauvery River in Kollegal.

Kulkarni added that an earlier panel of senior IFS officers had suggested that one of these projects might be permitted with minimum intervention and safeguards. "However, this conclusion cannot be applied in the current context, especially after the recent spike in tiger mortality due to conflict. Elephant–human conflict across Chamarajanagar and Kollegal has also intensified. The significance of this landscape as a vital connectivity corridor linking Cauvery Wildlife Sanctuary, MM Hills WLS, and BRT Tiger Reserve is now better established. In this ecological setting, no forest diversion can be justified," the letter stated.

Approving these projects now, he emphasised, would be inconsistent with conservation policy and the spirit of existing environmental laws.

Plan afoot to declare MM Hills tiger reserve

Forest Minister asks officials to hold meetings with local residents and submit report on proposal even as accused suspected in poisoning case has been arrested

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The accused, suspected in the poisoning and killing of a tiger in the Male Mahadeshwara Hills (MM Hills) Wildlife Sanctuary on October 2, has been traced and taken into custody by the Karnataka Forest Department. Reports indicate that the tiger carcass had been mutilated, with the body cut into three pieces.

Following the incident, Karnataka Forest Minister Eshwar Khandre directed officials to hold a meeting with local residents and submit a report on declaring MM Hills a tiger reserve to ensure better protection of wildlife. Khandre noted that the Wildlife Board had previously approved the proposal, and the meeting should culminate in a final report. He also suggested compiling a comprehensive record of households and residents in villages surrounding the sanctuary to ensure timely ex-gratia payments.

Officials have been instructed to conduct awareness programs for forest dwellers and local residents, enhance patrols in the MM Hills forest area, and take action against officials found guilty of dereliction of duty. Frontline staff wages must be ensured, and patrolling activities will undergo periodic review using GPS-tagged photos of personnel.

Elephant electrocuted

In a separate incident on October 4, an elephant near Goldarade in Channapatna died after coming into contact with an electric pole wire. Forest Department officials said inspections are underway. Letters have been sent to electricity supply companies instructing them to prevent elephant electrocutions caused by illegal fencing and sagging wires. Authorities emphasised the need for urgent corrective measures to safeguard wildlife in the region. The twin incidents highlight ongoing threats to wildlife in Karnataka and the urgent need for stronger protection measures. The Forest Department has assured citizens that strict action will be taken against anyone violating wildlife protection norms, while community engagement and technological monitoring will play critical role in preventing such tragedies.

Patrolling intensified to protect tigers and elephants in sanctuary

Protests, confusion as caste survey kicks off in city

100 enumerators stage sit-in; citizens unclear about voluntary nature of survey as Deputy CM urges B'lureans to cooperate with exercise

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The state's social and educational survey, widely referred to as the caste survey, faced disruption in Bengaluru on its opening day after nearly 100 enumerators staged a sit-in at the Malleswaram municipal office on Saturday. Many of the protestors were government teachers who cited personal hardships, including health issues and caregiving responsibilities. One woman even brought her special child to emphasise her inability to participate. The survey, which began across Karnataka on September 22 and runs till October 7, is scheduled for two days in Bengaluru. Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar met the agitators and urged citizens to cooperate with the exercise.

Citizen concerns

Citizens have expressed confusion and concern following a Karnataka High Court clarification on September 25, which stated that participation in the ongoing socio-economic survey is strictly voluntary and that no one is legally obliged to provide personal information. The court also directed the Karnataka State Backward Classes Commission (KSBCC) to issue a public notice informing the public about this.

Survey runs through September 22–October 7; it is scheduled for two days in Bengaluru

"Many of us in Bengaluru were unaware that participation was optional. Without a formal notice in newspapers or other media, it's easy to assume that refusal could lead to penalties," said a local resident. Another citizen added, "People are anxious about providing personal details, thinking it's mandatory, when the High Court has made it clear that it isn't." Adding to the confusion is the inclusion of the Parsi Zoroastrian community among the roughly 1,500 castes listed by the KSBCC. Members of the community point out that Parsis are a religious group, not a caste, and said, "Being listed in this survey is misleading. It does not reflect our social identity."

Members of Parsi community say being listed along with 1,500 castes in this survey 'misleading' as they are a religious group and not a caste

Citizens are urging the KSBCC to immediately publish a notice in print and online, clarifying that participation is voluntary, so that people can make informed decisions without fear of legal or administrative consequences.

THE SUNDAY READ

WE COUNT ON OUR TREES. DO YOU?

Yes, the city needs to know how much of its green cover is still intact and can be preserved, but tree census keeps getting put off for one reason or the other

| Garima Prasher
garima.prasher@timesofindia.com
TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

Bengaluru's much-awaited tree census to estimate the remaining green cover of the city has once again been delayed.

Officials from the Forest, Environment and Climate Cell (FECC) of Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) say the delay this time is due to the recent administrative transition from the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike to GBA.

"The census process is trailing in three (Mahadevpura, RR Nagar, Bengaluru South) out of the eight zones, as tenders for these had to be refloated. However, retendering has taken place, and financial approval to issue a work order to the new contractor is pending. We are expecting the census to be completed by March 2026," said an official from FECC.

The earlier contract in the given areas was cancelled in November last year due to slow progress made by the contractor.

So far, 6.91 lakh trees have been enumerated across the city, which was divided into eight areas of interest to carry out the census.

A total of 50,933 trees in Bengaluru east and a little over 2.16 lakh trees in Bengaluru west zones have been enumerated, and census work has been completed in these two zones.

In the RR Nagar zone, nearly 1.37 lakh trees have been counted, followed by enumeration of 66,485 trees in Bengaluru south, and 48,950 in the Mahadevapura zone. These are the three zones with a stalled census process, as the financial approval for the work order is pending in the three zones.

In Bommanahalli (53,708 trees counted), Dasarahalli (34,947 trees counted), and Yelahanka (82,779 trees counted), enumeration is going on.

One hindrance after the other

Bengauru's tree census has been a long, drawn-out process so far.

While the Karnataka High Court ordered BBMP to start Bengaluru's tree census in 2019, on-ground work began in February 2024, following a delay of nearly five years.

The first deadline for the enumeration of Bengaluru's trees was set as August 2024, which was then moved to November of that year. However, the completion date was then shifted to March 2025, followed by the end of this year. Nonetheless, the deadline has been moved again to the end of the 2025-26 financial year.

City-based environmentalists say the absence of tree census data has become a hindrance in implementing conservation activities and sustainable development strategies.

"Unfortunately, the tree census is considerably delayed, and this time with a brand new excuse. The project has been delayed for a variety of reasons before this, and my hunch is that this trend will continue. The completion is not in sight. While the census is delayed, other infrastructure development activities are being proposed in full swing. One example is the Double Decker flyover, likely to impact trees around Delmia Junction in JP Nagar," said Dattatreya Devare, trustee of Bangalore Environment Trust and a city-based environmentalist.

> **"The project has been delayed for a variety of reasons before this, and my hunch is that this trend will continue. While the census is delayed, other infrastructure development activities are being proposed in full swing**
>
> –Dattatreya Devare, environmentalist

State's prison population crosses 14,000

Central Prison in Bengaluru largest, accommodating 5,016 inmates, of which 3,875 are undertrials

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Karnataka houses a total of 54 prisons across the state, comprising nine Central Prisons, 21 District Prisons, 23 Taluk Prisons, and one Open Prison, according to data tabled in the Karnataka Legislative Assembly by Home Minister in response to Unstarred Question No. 1486. As of July 31, 2025, the total inmate population stands at 14,481, including 10,787 undertrial prisoners (UTPs) and 3,694 convicts.

Central Prison in Bengaluru remains the largest, accommodating 5,016 inmates, of which 3,875 are undertrials and 1,141 convicts. Mysuru's Central Prison follows with 787 inmates, while Shivamogga and Belagavi Central Prisons house 759 and 842 prisoners, respectively. Other Central Prisons, including those in Dharwad, Vijayapura, Kalaburagi, and Ballari, record populations ranging from 477 to 607. Taluk and District Prisons, though smaller in size, collectively account for several thousand inmates, with District Prisons in Ramanagara, Tumakuru, Mangaluru, and Hassan registering notable numbers. Some smaller facilities, including Taluk Prisons in Tiptur, Sagara, Devadurga, and Revenue Prisons in Sirsi, remain empty.

Spending on food, medical care

The state government spends an average of 94.40 per prisoner per day on food. Inmate meals are carefully regulated and distributed in accordance with guidelines provided in official annexures. Medical facilities vary across prisons. Facilities with in-house hospitals provide primary care, while advanced treatment is referred to nearby Taluk or District hospitals. Prisons without hospitals depend entirely on local government healthcare facilities. All newly admitted prisoners undergo initial health screenings, in line with National Human Rights Commission directives. Following a 2020 order by the Karnataka State Human Rights Commission, prison hospitals now fall under the Department of Health & Family Welfare.

Central Prison, Bengaluru

Vocational training, rehab

The state government emphasises on skill development and rehabilitation. Inmates receive vocational and self-employment training through programs supported by the Skill Development, ntrepreneurship, and Livelihood Department and various NGOs. Training areas include hairdressing, beauty therapy, leaf plate and cup making, artificial garland production, data entry, dairy work, and sericulture. Central Prison factories provide additional opportunities in handloom, powerloom, weaving, tailoring, bakery, carpentry, blacksmith work, and more. Prisoner wages are structured based on skill levels, ranging from 524 for unskilled workers to 663 for highly skilled workers.

Karnataka Prison Rules ensure that convicted prisoners are engaged in work and receive wages along with eligibility for remission. Convicts can avail of ordinary and emergency parole, while life-term prisoners may be considered for premature release three times a year for good conduct. Prisons also conduct yoga, meditation, health camps, mental health awareness programs, and other rehabilitative activities aimed at behaviour reform.

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BENGALURU SPEAKS

and gets heard on this page

STORY BEHIND THE PHOTO

UNSUNG HEROES

After hours of hard work keeping the pandal clean, these unsung heroes sit together, sharing smiles, stories, and a quiet moment of joy, watching the festive crowd they helped make comfortable

The picture was clicked by reader **Dr.Nabaneeta Misra**

If you have a picture and a story to share, send us the picture with your name and number at **mybangaloremirror@timesofindia.com**

Transport body flags concerns over draft motor vehicles rules

Provisions could disproportionately impact professional drivers, commercial transport sector, state vehicle owners' group writes to MoRTH

The Karnataka State Commercial Vehicle Owners' Association (KSCVOA) has raised serious objections to the Draft Central Motor Vehicles (Amendment) Rules, 2025 (G.S.R. 724(E)), recently issued by the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH) on September 29. In a detailed letter addressed to the Additional Secretary (MVL) at Transport Bhawan, New Delhi, the association highlighted that certain provisions could disproportionately impact professional drivers and the commercial transport sector.

The association's primary concern revolves around the proposed rule of taking immediate punitive action against drivers with five violations on record. KSCVOA President K. Radhakrishna Holla emphasised that even minor infractions, such as parking lapses or small traffic violations, could accumulate to five instances, potentially jeopardising the livelihood of several drivers. "Imposing strict penalties for minor or cumulative violations without considering severity is excessively harsh for professional drivers," he stated.

Another major point of contention is the proposed blocking of essential services, including registration, licence renewal, or transfer of ownership, for non-payment of pending challans. The association warned that this could severely disrupt daily operations for transport businesses already grappling with driver shortages, rising fuel costs, and financial pressures. Holla suggested that alternatives, such as additional penalties or interest for delayed payments, could be explored instead of complete service restrictions.

The association also flagged technical and rural accessibility challenges, noting that the system's dependence on e-Challan and online portals could be impractical for areas with poor internet connectivity. "If SMS or email notifications fail to reach vehicle owners on time, innocent operators may face penalties unfairly," the letter cautioned. To address this, KSCVOA suggested issuing postal notices where electronic communications fail.

Additionally, the association pointed out that public sector vehicles often have pending challans themselves, yet the draft rules target private and small commercial operators. "Enforcing accountability should begin with government and public-sector fleets before imposing restrictions on individual owners," the letter recommended.

While supporting the overall goal of improving road safety, KSCVOA urged the ministry to reconsider certain provisions and amend the rules to avoid undue hardships on vehicle owners and the transport industry. The association called for a balanced approach that protects safety without crippling the sector economically. The Ministry of Road Transport and Highways is yet to respond to the objections and suggestions, leaving commercial operators awaiting clarity on the final version of the amended rules.

DID YOU KNOW?

Researchers have discovered life-size rock carvings of camels, gazelles and other animals in the Saudi Arabian desert. The carvings date back to around 12,000 years ago and many are over 6 feet tall. Scientists say they were created using a wedge-shaped rock to create sharp lines. Several were etched on narrow ledges so the artists couldn't even step back to survey the final product as they were working. "To engrave that much detail with just a rock takes real skill," said Maria Guagnin, an archaeologist with the Max Planck Institute of Geoanthropology in Germany who was involved in the discovery. The animal carvings and engraving tools found at the site show that people were living in the area about 2,000 years earlier than scientists thought. It isn't clear how they survived in such arid conditions — whether they lived off of shallow lakes that pooled for part of the year or drank water that accumulated in deep crevices. — AP

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Deepfake video falsely attributes statement to ADC Leh on Wangchuk's arrest

Claim: Video of Additional Deputy Commissioner Leh being circulated with claims regarding arrest of climate activist Sonam Wangchuk
Fact: PIB says it is a deepfake, designed to mislead public and incite panic

In a stern rebuttal to misinformation spreading across social media, the Press Information Bureau (PIB) has issued a fact check clarifying that a digitally altered video of Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) Leh, Ghulam Muhammad, is being circulated with false claims regarding the arrest of climate activist Sonam Wangchuk. The video, manipulated using artificial intelligence, falsely portrays the ADC as stating that Wangchuk was arrested at the direction of the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA). PIB's Fact Check unit categorically stated that ADC Leh has made no such statement, and the video is a deepfake designed to mislead the public and incite panic.

"Fake AI videos are being spread to mislead and cause panic," the PIB warned, urging citizens to verify content before sharing and report such misleading material to authorities. The video in question surfaced shortly after Wangchuk's arrest under the National Security Act (NSA) on September 26, following violent protests in Leh demanding Sixth Schedule status and statehood for Ladakh.

A candlelight vigil for Ladakh activist Sonam Wangchuk, who was arrested, at Jantar Mantar in New Delhi

The unrest left four people dead and nearly 90 injured. Wangchuk was subsequently transferred to Jodhpur Jail in Rajasthan. This is not the first instance of deepfake content targeting officials in Ladakh.

Earlier, a similar AI-generated video falsely attributed statements to Ladakh DGP SD Singh Jamwal, claiming Wangchuk's arrest was ordered by the Defence Minister. That video, too, was debunked by PIB and led to an FIR being filed by Leh Police under sections of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita and the IT Act.

The circulation of such manipulated videos raises serious concerns about the weaponisation of AI technology to distort public discourse and undermine trust in institutions. Experts warn that deepfakes can erode democratic processes by fabricating statements from public officials, especially during politically sensitive times. The Leh administration has reiterated its commitment to maintaining peace and transparency, and has appealed to the public to refrain from sharing unverified content.

Meanwhile, civil society groups continue to demand Wangchuk's release and a peaceful resolution to Ladakh's political demands. As misinformation becomes increasingly sophisticated, fact-checking agencies and digital literacy are emerging as critical tools to safeguard public trust. The PIB's swift response underscores the importance of institutional vigilance in the age of AI-generated deception. — BMB

The young are coming home, and how

Survey shows more millennials, Gen Z professionals buying homes, and some even going for premium properties

INFOCUS HOME BUYERS

A survey has revealed that there's a sharp uptick in millennials and Gen Z professionals entering the housing market at early stages of their career, driven by rising incomes, tech-enabled access to credit, and changing lifestyle aspirations. They are even buying premium homes, often above ₹1 crore, with dedicated workspaces and better amenities.

At the same time, women are playing a much bigger role in this evolution -- one in five home loans is now taken by a woman, with a 23% year-on-year growth in loan value among female borrowers. Their average loan amount is ₹70 lakh, signaling growing financial independence.

The survey by portal NoBrokers shows that generational shift marks a significant cultural and economic moment, and that the country is no longer waiting till 40+ to own a home.

Bengaluru has become a hotspot for young buyers primarily because it is the country's largest IT hub, employing lakhs of professionals in their 20s and 30s. With strong salaries, stable career prospects, and dual-income households being common, many young professionals here are financially positioned to buy homes much earlier than in other cities.

Amit Agarwal, Co-founder & CEO, NoBroker pointed out that Gen Z and younger millennials are changing this trend by buying homes much earlier in their careers, often in their mid to late 20s. "One of the biggest drivers of this shift is the rise of dual-income households. In urban areas, it is common for both partners to be working,

> Higher salaries in sectors such as IT and technology have also played a role

which significantly increases disposable income and makes large financial commitments like buying a home more manageable. Higher salaries in sectors such as IT and technology have also played a major role." He pointed out Gen Z professionals are entering the premium housing segment much earlier than expected. "An important element is financial awareness. Gen Z is far more informed about wealth creation through stocks, mutual funds, and other investment avenues. Their ability to diversify income sources and grow savings gives them the confidence to commit to larger investments like property. Another factor is the rise of innovative financing models. Many developers now offer schemes where buyers don't need to pay the full EMI immediately," said Agarwal.

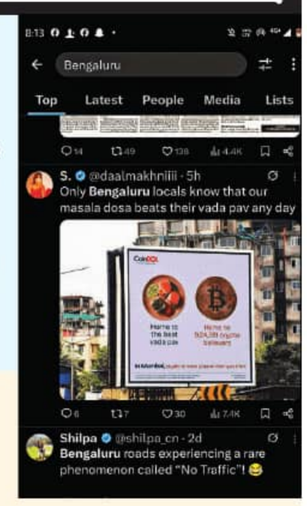
Agarwal pointed out that the city's young buyers are most active in a few key micro-markets. Whitefield has emerged as the clear favorite, thanks to its excellent connectivity to IT hubs, metro access, and well-developed social infrastructure. Electronic City follows closely, drawing buyers with its tech-driven community, modern amenities, and proximity to major workplaces.

This apart, Bagalur is fast rising in popularity, owing to its strategic location and developments in connectivity projects. Meanwhile, Krishnarajapura (KR Puram) and Yelahanka continue to attract younger buyers for their transport links, access to top schools and hospitals.

— Iffath Fathima

SOCIALTATTLE

That went viral
We are touchy about our favourite food. And who would not be when we have the best dosas in the world? This X user makes it clear: Only Bengaluru locals know that our masala dosa beats their vada pav any day https://x.com/KA_Talkies/status/1974480041234080076?t=g2PPmokAwrLCDoGXGNZNNw&s=08



A Russian woman's video has touched our hearts as she compares Indian cities and calls Bengaluru the perfect place to live: 'Sunny, green and perfect'

What's tweeting:
Delightful update for Bengalureans. https://x.com/Ram_Guha/status/1973994288410472666?s=08 writes: For citizens of Bengaluru: there's a delightful exhibition of Gandhi caricatures from around the world on display at the Indian Cartoon Gallery, Midford Gardens, near Trinity Circle Metro Station. It's on show till the end of October.

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For citizens of Bengaluru: there's a delightful exhibition of Gandhi caricatures from around the world on display at the Indian Cartoon Gallery, Midford Gardens, near Trinity Circle Metro Station. It's on show till the end of October.
Royal Challengers Bengaluru

@sumnexyz calls Bengaluru the Silicon valley of Cinema as they find that all theatres are running full house https://www.instagram.com/reel/DO6Cc_0khnf/?utm_source=ig_web_button_share_sheet

INBRIEF

TJS George funeral to be held with state honours

The funeral of veteran journalist, author, and Padma Bhushan awardee Thayil Jacob Sony George, popularly known as T JS George, will be held with state honours, the Karnataka Chief Minister's Office (CMO) announced on Saturday. According to the government order: "T JS George, senior journalist and Padma Bhushan awardee, passed away on October 3. The government expresses its deep condolences and has ordered that his final rites be conducted with full state honours."
George passed away in Bengaluru on Friday at a private hospital at the age of 97. Hailing from Kerala, George spent most of his life in Bengaluru. He is survived by his children Sheba Thayil and author-poet Jeet Thayil. Chief Minister Siddaramaiah expressed grief over his demise, stating, "Saddened by the passing away of veteran journalist, editor, and author TJS George.
"With his sharp pen and uncompromising voice, he enriched Indian journalism for over six decades. He was a true public intellectual who made readers think, question, and engage," CM Siddaramaiah added. **BMB**

Mudhol hounds join Odisha CID as sniffer dogs

Mudhol hounds will now serve in the Odisha CID's crime branch as trained sniffer dogs. Known for their agility and sharp sense of smell, the breed had earlier earned fame after Prime Minister Narendra Modi highlighted them in his "Mann Ki Baat" programme, leading to growing demand across the country. Odisha officials recently visited the Mudhol Dog Research and Information Centre at Timmapur and procured five puppies (four male, one female), which are being trained for crime detection and narcotics tracking. Once restricted to the Army, the breed is now deployed with the BSF, CISF, state police units, and in patrolling duties at Bandipur sanctuary. The Mudhol hound, developed during the reign of Maharaja Malojirao Ghorpade, is prized for its long frame, strong legs, ability to run at speeds of up to 50 kmph, and keen scent. Around 400 pups are sold each year by the centre, ensuring conservation of this breed while expanding its role in national security. **BMB**

Aviation sector continues to soar

India's domestic aviation sector continued to expand in 2025, though passenger traffic in August showed a slight dip compared to July. According to the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) report, airlines carried 1107.26 lakh passengers between January and August 2025, up 4.99% year-on-year from 1054.66 lakh in the same period last year. However, August traffic decreased by 1.40% month-over-month.
"Passengers carried by domestic airlines during January-August 2025 were 1107.26 lakhs as against 1054.66 lakhs during the corresponding period of the previous year, thereby registering an annual growth of 4.99 % and a monthly growth of -1.40 %," the DGCA said in its monthly traffic report for August. **ANI**

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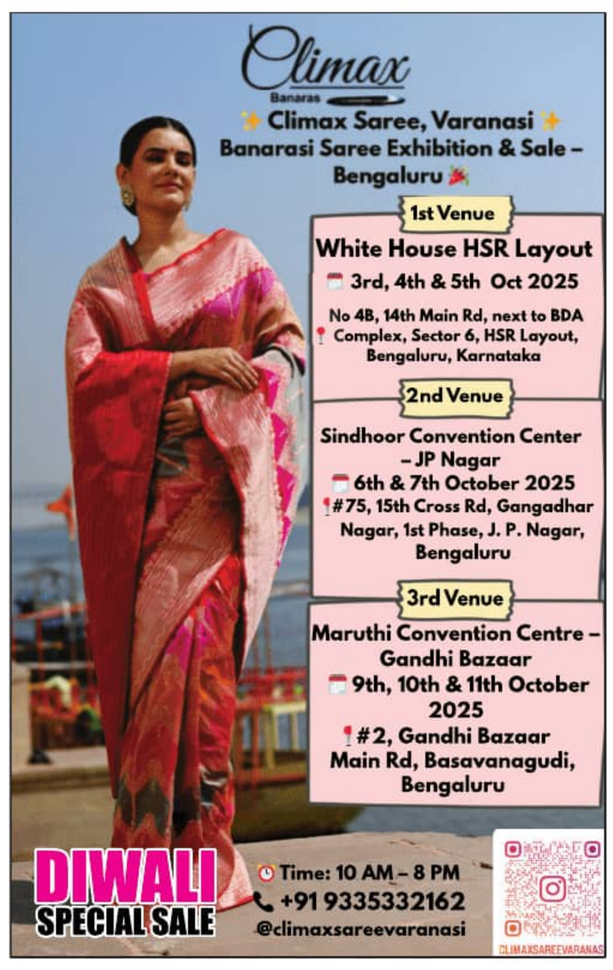
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New ODI captain— The Indian selectors on Saturday removed Rohit Sharma from ODI captaincy and expectedly handed over the reins to young Shubman Gill, keeping the 2027 World Cup in mind

Raghuram Bhat: Former banker now BCCI Treasurer

It was the 1981-82 Ranji Trophy semi-final as Karnataka met the star-studded Mumbai at the Chinnaswamy Stadium. Karnataka's left-arm spinner Raghuram Bhat had figures of 8 for 123 in the first innings having the scalps of Sunil Gavaskar, Ghulam Parkar, Dilip Vengsarkar, Sandeep Patil, Ashok Mankad, Suru Nayak, Ravi Shastri, and Ravi Kulkarni. Karnataka defeated and dethroned Mumbai then in what was a sensational victory.

Now, years later, Raghuram Bhat walks into BCCI's headquarters in Mumbai as the Hon. Treasurer. It is no mean achievement for the ever-humble former banker who was employed with the State Bank of India during his playing days. That stint of service will surely come in handy for Bhat as he deals with the financial fortunes of the BCCI.

The Karnataka State Cricket Association's President, Raghuram Bhat, was unanimously elected to the post at the 94th annual general body meeting in Mumbai.

In the bargain, Raghuram Bhat becomes only the fifth person from Karnataka to be elected to any of the BCCI's major administrative positions.

The late M. Chinnaswamy, the former President of the KSCA, served as the BCCI Secretary from 1960 to 1965 and was later elected as the BCCI President from 1977 to 1980. The late C. Nagaraj, who was the Hon. Secretary of the KSCA, was elected as the Hon. Secretary of the BCCI from 1991 to 1993.

Brijesh Patel, who served as the Hon. Secretary of the KSCA, became the Chairman of the IPL Governing Council from 2019 to 2022. Roger Binny, who was the KSCA President, was elected as the BCCI President from 2022 to 2025 as he laid down office last month.

Throw some punches

Over 100 boxers participated in a Bangalore's boxing community Creed Amateur Wars at GameFit Academy. The event drew talented boxers from top academies across the city, delivering a showcase of power, passion, and perseverance inside the ring

PICS: KAUSHIK JN

'Everyone you meet since morning tells you to win'

Smriti Mandhana on IND-PAK Women's World Cup clash

Ahead of her side's high-octane ICC Women's World Cup clash against Pakistan in the ICC Women's World Cup, Indian skipper Harmanpreet Kaur and her deputy Smriti Mandhana spoke on the excitement surrounding this rivalry and the team's mindset heading into the clash.

The Indian team, which kick-started the campaign with a 59-run win over Sri Lanka, will have their second match of the campaign against Pakistan, which endured a humiliating defeat in their campaign opener against Bangladesh. India has never lost to Pakistan in the women's 50-over World Cup, having won all four of their clashes so far.

Speaking ahead of the match to JioStar, Harmanpreet said, "We have grown up watching India-Pakistan games and always wanted to be a part of them. We always talk about treating it as any other game and staying focused."

Smriti also said that whenever the clash with arch-rival comes, everyone meets them and tells them to win and the team enjoys such atmosphere.

"The atmosphere during India-Pakistan games is always very intense; it is always a full house. Everyone you meet since morning tells you to win. That sort of atmosphere also brings out the best in you sometimes. My teammates and I absolutely enjoy that," she said.

File photo of Indian Women's Cricket Team during a practice session ahead of the first match in the ICC Women's World Cup 2025

> **The atmosphere during India-Pakistan games is always very intense; it is always a full house. That also brings out the best in you sometimes**
>
> –Smriti Mandhana

Harmanpreet has a poor record against Pakistan, with just 55 runs in four innings at an average of 13.75, with the best score of 24. For Smriti, it is 54 runs in two innings, with a half-century to her name.

All-rounder Deepti Sharma said that the "weight and excitement" of India-Pakistan is much bigger compared to other games.

"We look forward to that contest and are always on our toes when we face them," she concluded.

Against Pakistan, Deepti has managed 97 runs in three innings at an average of 48.50, with a best score of 40. She has also taken three wickets against them, averaging 19.33.

Squads:

-India Women's Squad:

Pratika Rawal, Smriti Mandhana, Harleen Deol, Harmanpreet Kaur(c), Jemimah Rodrigues, Deepti Sharma, Richa Ghosh(w), Amanjot Kaur, Sneh Rana, Kranti Gaud, Shree Charani, Radha Yadav, Renuka Singh Thakur, Arundhati Reddy, Uma Chetry

-Pakistan Women's Squad:

Muneeba Ali, Omaima Sohail, Sidra Amin, Rameen Shamim, Aliya Riaz, Sidra Nawaz(w), Fatima Sana(c), Natalia Pervaiz, Diana Baig, Nashra Sandhu, Sadia Iqbal, Shawaal Zulfiqar, Eyman Fatima, Syeda Aroob Shah, Sadaf Shamas.

–ANI

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personal

CHANGE OF NAME

I, Sabira Bi Syed Nizamuddin, R/at Flat No.2023, Tower-2, 2nd Floor, Prestige Misty Waters, Kempapura Hebbal, Bangalore-560024 Have Changed My Name To Sabira Bi, For All Purposes.

I, Shruti Priyadarshini W/o Nikhil Ambastha R/o Vista D-704, Godrej United, Whitefield Main Road, Bangalore - 560048 via aff. no. 938/87 on 03 Oct 25 have changed my name to Shruti Ambastha.

I, Shivaraj Kumar R S/o. Rajangam residing at No.48, A Block, 22nd Cross, Janakiram Layout, Lingarajapura, Maruthi Sevanagar, Bengaluru – 560033 have changed my name from Shivaraj Kumar to Shivaraj Kumar R vide affidavit dated 04/10/2025 before notary Uday Kumar K, Blr.

WE Gaurav Kumar Garg and Rashi Garg R/o Prestige Tranquility, Tower 10, Flat 10081, Budigere Cross Bengaluru 560049, have changed my minor son name from Ethan Garg to Naitik Garg, age 14 years for all purposes

I, Sadiq Ullah Khan, S/o Lt. Nabee Khan, R/o JB Nagar, Bangalore, hereby declare that I have changed my name to Sadiq Ullah Khan. Hereafter, I shall be known and referred to as Sadiq Ullah Khan for all official and future purposes.

I, Aishwarya Lingaraj Naik W/o Pradeep P R/o No 352,1st Floor ,ITI HBCS Layout, Nayandahalli Main Rd, Mysore Rd, B'luru 560039 have changed my name to Aishwarya Lingaraja Naik ,

I, Varsha Chellaperumal R/o 88, 1st main, 3rd cross, Duo heights Lyt, Begur, Bengaluru 560076 have changed my name to Varsha Chellaperumal Pillai. Affidavit Dt.13/01/2025 notary K V Jagannath Reddy, B'luru

I, NAYAZ PASHA R (Old Name) resident of No.65/1B, 4th Cross, Madina Masjid Gangondanahalli, BANGALORE-560039 have changed my name to NAYAZ PASHA (New Name) vide affidavit dated: 26/9/2025 Before Notary H.S. Sakalesh Aradhya Bangalore.

LOST & FOUND

NOTICE is hearby given that the undersigned has lost his original certificate of his Bachelor Of Commerce (Honours) Degree issued to him by Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Learning. Whoever finds it is hereby requested to return the same to the undersigned immediately. Any one found in possession inspite of this Notice will be deemed to be in unauthorized and illegal possession of it and shall be liable for any misuse of the same. Name of the Candidate: V Sai Govinda Address: Indiranagar, Bengaluru Phone Number: 7389122899

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'Perfection without the connection'

How AI is becoming a digital wingman

Dmitry, a 35-year-old from Miami, stared at the profile of a woman he matched with on a dating app, unsure how to initiate a conversation. So for help, he opened Rizz, an AI-powered app that bills itself as a pocket dating assistant.

After sending screenshots of his match's profile — which mentions her love of ski slopes, summer concerts and a great bottle of wine — Dmitry prompted Rizz to generate a smooth opening line. The results were immediate."I'm into all of those activities," he messaged, at Rizz's suggestion. "Now the hard part is to figure out which one would be the perfect first date." "Rizz gives me some quirky, funny responses," Dmitry says of the app, which he credits with helping him progress out of the talking stage and into in-person dates.

A new crop of AI-powered tools is emerging as an on-demand wingman for people trying to navigate online dating — helping craft replies, optimise profiles, or even decide when to move on. Though this trend is a game-changer for some, dating and relationship experts warn it risks replacing authenticity with automation.

Rizz, a colloquial term that is short for charisma, currently has 15 million users globally on its apps, the company says, with monthly subscriptions costing $19.99.

"At some point you're going to have to go on an actual real, live date with somebody. So you have to become comfortable with who you are...

"I want Rizz to make conversation more natural, more human, right?" Roman Khaves, the app's founder, says. "I want it to help you get off the apps faster and get to where dating happens."

More people may be on the receiving end of AI-generated messages than they realise. Just over a quarter of U.S. adults — including nearly half of Gen Z — are using AI to filter matches and write messages, according to a recent survey by the Kinsey Institute and Match Group (which owns Tinder, Hinge, and several other online dating platforms). Another app that hopeful daters turn to is YourMove AI, which offers AI dating assistants that help users craft dating profiles, respond to matches, and even enhance their photos for $12.99 per month.

Dmitri Mirakyan, the founder of YourMove AI, says he created the platform in 2022 for people who are shy, feel socially awkward, or struggle to navigate what he calls the weird dynamics on dating apps. "It feels so transactional ... the rates of rejection, people just don't reply, people are ghosting," he says. "It feels mentally painful."

While such apps have helped users like Dmitry progress to in-person dates, they also raise a paradox: Can something artificial really foster authenticity? For some, the answer becomes clear the moment the conversation starts to seem a little too polished.

Sophie Sherwin, a 52-year-old writer based in London, says she was chatting with a potential love interest through TikTok direct messages when she received what she described as an overly poetic and romantic response. It was then that she began to suspect the messages might have been generated by ChatGPT. "I think the danger is you could fall in love with perfection," she says. "You know, perfection without the connection."

New York-based dating coach Grace Lee says the focus needs to be on helping people learn how to communicate with each other. She uses AI and VR to simulate dates for her clients, giving them a space to practice common dating situations so they can be better prepared for the real thing. "These apps have spent ... millions of dollars perfecting the algorithm, perfecting the user experience," she says, "but they spent zero dollars on helping people really learn to talk about themselves."

Gary Lewandowski, a relationship expert and psychology professor based in New Jersey, advises people to rely on themselves to write their profile and messages — unless they are truly stuck.

"The fact of the matter is at some point you're going to have to go on an actual real, live date with somebody and the real you is showing up," he says. "And so, you have to become comfortable with who you are." **– Reuters**

OpenAI's Altman seeks funds for infra expansion on Asia, Middle East tour: Reports

OpenAI CEO Sam Altman has embarked on a global fundraising initiative spanning East Asia and the Middle East, seeking financing and manufacturing partners to meet the company's demand for its computing capacity, the Wall Street Journal reported on Saturday, citing sources familiar with the meetings.

Altman has held discussions since late September in Taiwan, South Korea, and Japan with major suppliers such as Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing, Foxconn, Samsung , and SK Hynix to boost AI chip production and secure top-priority orders for OpenAI, the report said.

Altman was pushing these companies to increase production capacity and give priority to OpenAI's orders, the newspaper added. Reuters could not immediately verify the report. Microsoft, TSMC, Foxconn, Samsung and SK Hynix couldn't immediately respond to requests for comment outside regular business hours.

Earlier this week, Samsung Electronics and SK Hynix had signed letters of intent to supply memory chips for OpenAI's data centers.

Altman has planned to visit investors in the United Arab Emirates to raise money to help fund OpenAI's infrastructure expansion and research, WSJ said.

OpenAI recently told its investors and business partners that it was likely to spend around $16 billion in renting computing servers this year, and that the expenditure could rise to around $400 billion in 2029, the report added, citing people familiar with the matter. **Reuters**

BITS & BYTES

ICE SPOTTING BLOCKED

Protest outside of ICE headquarters

Apple and Google blocked downloads of phone apps that flag sightings of US immigration agents, just hours after the Trump administration demanded that one particularly popular iPhone app be taken down.

US Attorney General Pam Bondi said such tracking puts Immigration and Customs Enforcement officers at risk. But users and developers of the apps say it's their First Amendment right to capture what ICE is doing in their neighborhoods — and that most users turn to these platforms in an effort to be safe. **AP**

BIG CHURN IN AMAZON

Just days after putting on its annual devices and services showcase, Amazon is losing a vice president who helps oversee the division. Rob Williams, vice president of device software and services and a member of the elite internal group known as the S-team advising CEO Andy Jassy, left his post and will step down from Amazon at year's end, according to a memo sent internally Thursday and reviewed by Reuters. Amazon confirmed the memo after a query from Reuters without providing additional detail.

"Rob has had a big impact on the software and experiences of nearly all of the products we've created," said Panos Panay, senior vice president of devices and services, in the memo. **Reuters**

SUPERMODEL SCAM

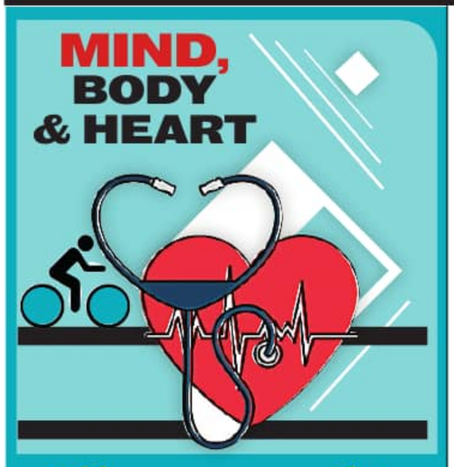
Gisele Bundchen

A group of suspected scammers in Brazil using Instagram ads featuring deepfakes of supermodel Gisele Bundchen and other celebrities appears to have made millions of dollars through online fraud, according to police investigators. Authorities arrested four suspects tied to the scheme this week and froze assets across five states in a probe that found over 20 million reais ($3.9 million) in suspicious funds identified by federal anti-money laundering agency COAF.

The operation marks one of the first attempts in Brazil to counter the growing use of artificial intelligence tools to manipulate images and videos of celebrities for online scams. **Reuters**

HEALTH TIP: Green gram dal is one of the easiest lentils to digest, making it gentle on the stomach while still providing a solid boost of protein

Red kidney bean is one of the richest vegetarian sources of protein and fiber



All you need to know about...

Long Covid & POTS

Heart rhythm disorder
An unusual heart rhythm disorder, also known as Postural orthostatic tachycardia syndrome (POTS), is more common in people with long Covid, according to a study.

What is this condition
The study found that the condition, where the heart beats abnormally fast when changing position from lying down to standing up, is more common in middle-aged women than men.
For people affected with POTS, standing up is a challenge. Their hearts beat faster than normal at rest and during exertion. Patients also experience fatigue and difficulties concentrating -- symptoms that are common in long Covid.

Clear connection
Researchers at Karolinska Institutet in Sweden found that POTS occurs in almost a third of patients with severe long Covid.
"Previous, smaller studies have shown that there is a connection, but now we can say with certainty that POTS is a very common condition in patients with long Covid. This is valuable knowledge for both health care professionals and patients," said Mikael Björnson, doctoral student at the Department of Medicine, Solna, Karolinska Institutet.
The study, published in the journal Circulation: Arrhythmia and Electrophysiology, examined 467 patients with severe long Covid who had not been hospitalised for Covid-19. Thirty-one per cent of participants received a POTS diagnosis, while 27 per cent had symptoms but did not meet the criteria for diagnosis.
The researchers now recommend that patients with long Covid who experience a significant increase in heart rate when changing position from lying down to standing, as well as during exertion, and who experience symptoms such as dizziness, brain fog, and pronounced fatigue, be investigated for POTS.

—IANS

MLA PESARATTU DOSA

INGREDIENTS
For Pesarattu Batter
- Whole green moong dal (green gram) 1 cup
- Raw rice or rice flour 2 tbsp
- Ginger 1-inch piece
- Green chilies 2–3
- Cumin seeds ½ tsp
- Salt To taste
- Water As needed

For Upma Filling
- Rava (semolina) 1 cup
- Water 2 cups
- Salt To taste
- Ghee or oil 1 tbsp
- Mustard seeds ½ tsp
- Urad dal 1 tsp
- Chana dal 1 tsp
- Curry leaves Few

For Allam Chutney (Ginger Chutney)
- Ginger 100 g
- Fried gram dal 1 tbsp
- Dry red chilies 2–3
- Tamarind Small piece (as per taste)
- Jaggery Small piece (as per taste)
- Oil (for tempering) As needed

METHOD
- Prepare Pesarattu Batter: Soak green moong dal and rice for 4–6 hours.
- Grind into a smooth batter with ginger, green chilies, and cumin seeds.
- Add salt and water to adjust consistency.
- Make Upma Filling: Heat oil, add mustard seeds, urad dal, and chana dal.
- Add ginger, green chilies, and curry leaves.
- Add rava and roast until lightly browned.
- Add water and salt, cook until upma thickens.
- Assemble MLA Pesarattu:
- Heat a dosa pan, spread pesarattu batter thinly.
- Cook until crisp, add upma filling, and fold.
- Serve with allam chutney (ginger) or coconut chutney.

DOSA ON YOUR MIND?

Get them on your plate with these varied preparations

MYSORE MASALA DOSA

INGREDIENTS
For Dosa Batter
- Dosa rice 2 cups
- Idli rice 1 cup
- Urad dal ½ cup
- Chana dal or Toor dal ¼ cup
- Poha (optional) ¼ cup
- Methi seeds ½ tsp
- Salt To taste
- Water As needed

For Red Chutney
- Chana dal ½ cup
- Dried red chilies 6–8
- Onion (small) 1
- Garlic cloves 2
- Oil 1 tsp
- Salt To taste

For Potato Filling
- Boiled potatoes 2–3
- Onion 1
- Mustard seeds 1 tsp
- Urad dal 1 tsp
- Chana dal 1 tsp
- Green chilies 2–4
- Grated ginger ½ tsp
- Curry leaves Few
- Salt To taste
- Turmeric powder: A pinch

METHOD:
- Prepare Dosa Batter: Soak rice, urad dal, and methi seeds for 4–5 hours.
- Grind into a smooth paste, adding water as needed.
- Ferment overnight or for 8–9 hours.
- Make Red Chutney: Heat oil, fry chana dal, red chilies, onion, and garlic until golden.
- Grind into a thick paste with salt and water.
- Prepare Potato Filling: Boil potatoes, peel, and mash.
- Heat oil, add mustard seeds, urad dal, chana dal, and curry leaves.
- Add onion, green chilies, ginger, and sauté until onions are translucent.
- Mix in mashed potatoes, salt, and turmeric powder.
- Assemble and Cook Dosa: Heat a dosa pan, spread dosa batter thinly.
- Apply red chutney, add potato filling, and fold dosa.
- Serve hot with coconut chutney and sambar

MADURAI KARI DOSA (CHICKEN)

INGREDIENT
For Chicken Sukka/Keema:
- Chicken (finely chopped) 150 g
- Onion (finely chopped) 1
- Tomato (finely chopped) 1
- Green chilies (finely chopped) 2
- Oil 2 tsp
- Ginger-garlic paste 1 tsp
- Salt To taste
- Red chili powder: As required
- Turmeric powder: As required
- Garam masala: As required
- Cumin powder: As required
- Pepper powder: ¼ tsp

For Dosa Batter:
- Dosa batter 1½ cups
- Eggs 2
- Onion (finely chopped) ½ cup
- Green chili (finely chopped) 1
- Salt To taste
- Pepper powder ½ tsp
- Chicken mixture Half of prepared chicken sukka

METHOD
Chicken Sukka/Keema:
- Heat 2tsp of oil in a kadai, sauté onion and green chilies.
- Add ginger-garlic paste and cook until fragrant.
- Add tomato and cook until mushy.
- Add chicken, salt, and spice powders. Mix well and cook until chicken is done.
- Sprinkle pepper powder and mix.

Dosa Batter Mix:
- In a bowl, combine dosa batter, eggs, onion, green chili, salt, and pepper powder.
- Add half of the chicken mixture to this and mix well.

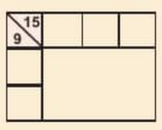
ASSEMBLY AND COOKING:
- Method 1: Spread dosa batter like uttapam, add the egg and chicken mixture on top, drizzle oil, and cook on medium flame for 1 minute. Flip, press with a ladle, and cook for 30 seconds.
- Method 2: Mix dosa batter with the egg and chicken mixture, spread on a griddle, drizzle oil, and cook on medium flame for 1 minute. Flip and cook until golden brown.

Recipes by Rajeev Kumar, Executive Chef, Courtyard by Marriott Bengaluru Hebbal

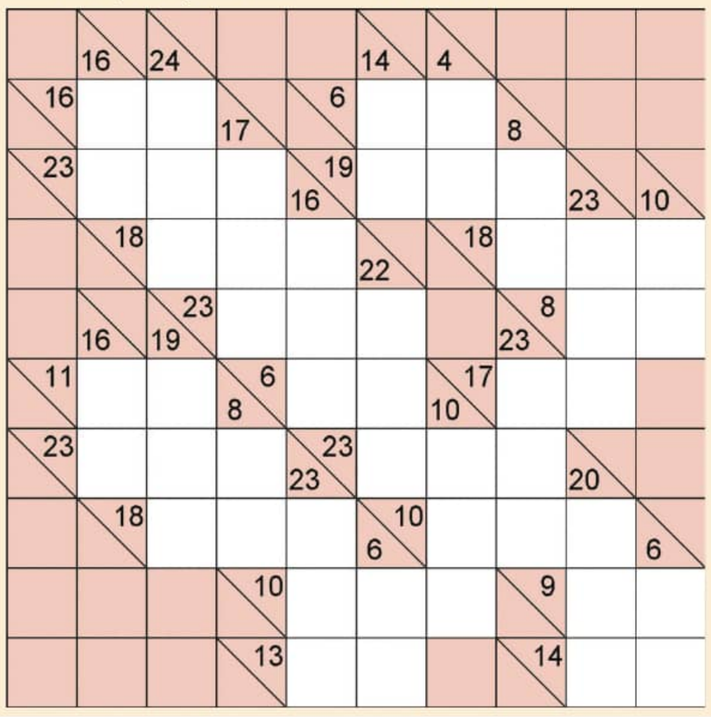
mybangaloremirror@timesofindia.com
facebook.com/theBangaloremirror
@BangaloreMirror

Kakuro

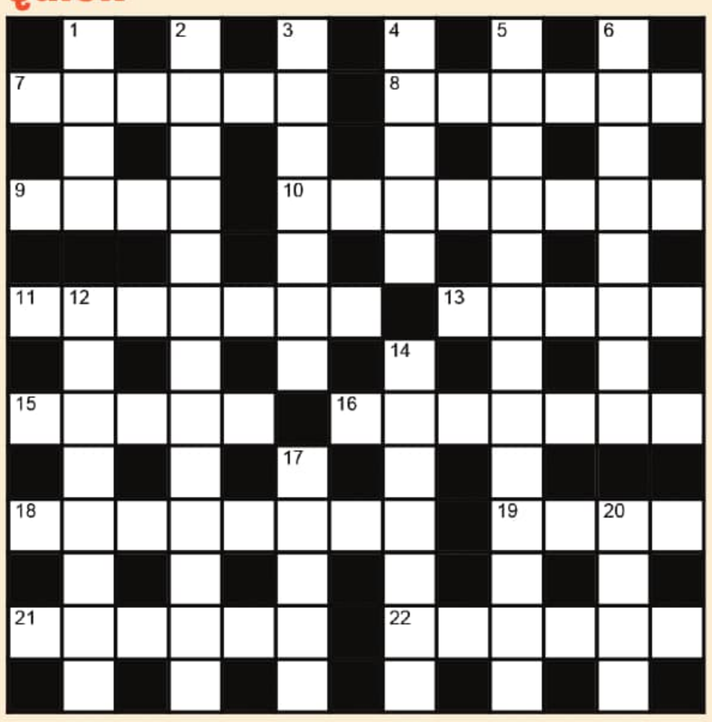
The numbers in the grey squares refer to the sums of the digits that you must fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the grey square containing the number. For instance, in the given example, the 3 boxes horizontally next to 15 must contain 3 digits that add up to 15, whereas for 9, it is the 2 boxes placed vertically under it that must add up to 9. No zeros are used here, only the digits 1 through 9.



Note: A digit cannot appear more than once in any particular digit combination. For instance, in the example, we cannot have the combination of 4+7+4 for 15.



Quick



ACROSS

7 Suffocates in water (6)
8 Calm and unruffled (6)
9 One of Captain Hook's men (4)
10 From an ___ __ : right from one's formative years, in a way? (5,3)
11 Suitability (7)
13 Exposed for drying (5)
15 Rich cake (5)
16 Sweepstake or prize draw (7)
18 First Indian C-in-C of the Indian army (8)
19 Biblical skipper (4)
21 West ____ : Kolkata is its capital ? (6)
22 Nervous cricket score (6)

DOWN

1 Very serious (4)
2 Inconsequential expressions of affection (5,8)
3 Slander (7)
4 Away from (5)
5 Music genre (4,9)
6 Great Bard's famous tragedy (4,4)
12 Segregates or separates (8)
14 Temple town in Uttara Kannada (7)
17 Magical charm (5)
20 Poker opener (4)

Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Today's CLUE: A EQUALS G

OGX QPO DM BDOGXPREA
RF OD OXQKG OGX QPO DM
IRZREA OD KGRIUPXE

Linemaro

If your heart was a prison, I'd want to be sentenced to life

Mindchow

Forty is the old age of youth, fifty is the youth of old age

Joke of the day

The Devil himself had probably re-designed Hell in the light of information he had gained from observing airport layouts

Loop

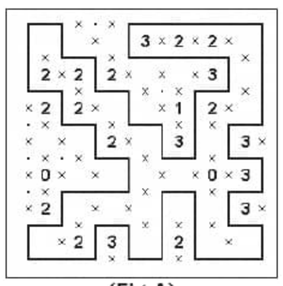
Rules

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.

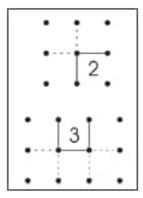
How to begin:

Example (Fig A) – Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

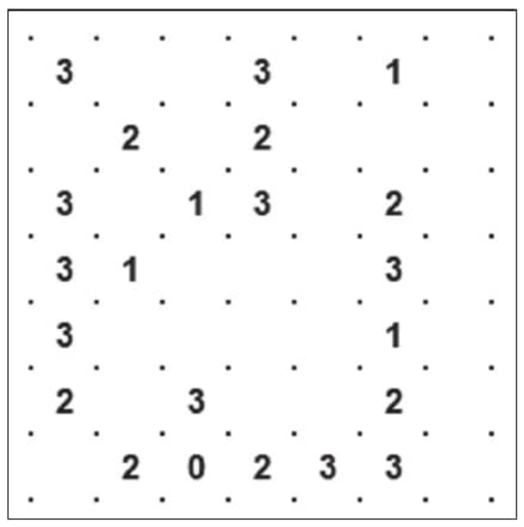
Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)



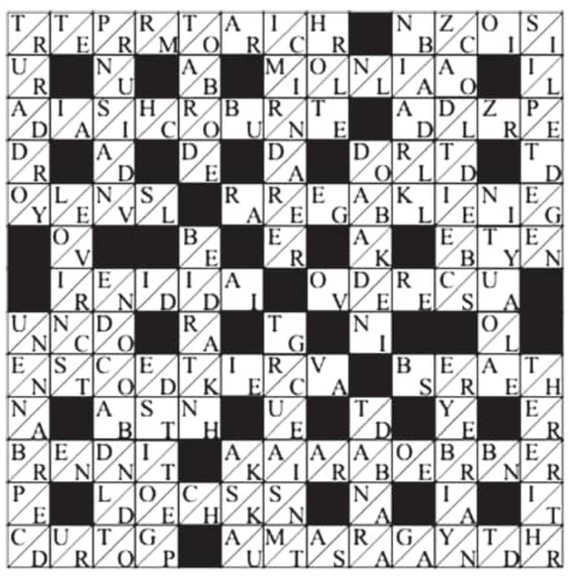
(Fig A)



(Fig B) Not Allowed



Strikeout



This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...

1	2	3	4	5
6				
7				
8				
9	Y			

ACROSS

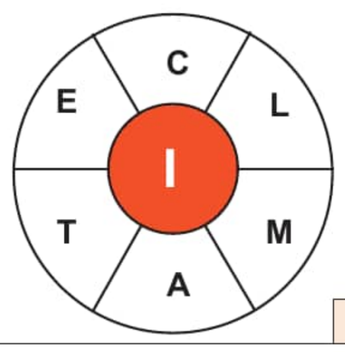
1 Repro; 6 E duel;
7 Sop he; 8 Am Aga;
9 Awl by

DOWN

1 A herb; 2 Go Loy;
3 Lap up; 4 Medea;
5 Wears

Mensapuzzle

Which numbers are the odd ones out in these two ovals?



Bull's eye

How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

14 Average; 16 Good; 18 Outstanding

SudokuChallenge

			3					8
		6		9	4	2	1	
	9	4	7			5		
							8	5
6			1		7			2
5	1							
		9			3	7	5	
	3	5	9	7		4		
4					2			

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Gofigure

Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.

Easy = 23

1 8 8 8

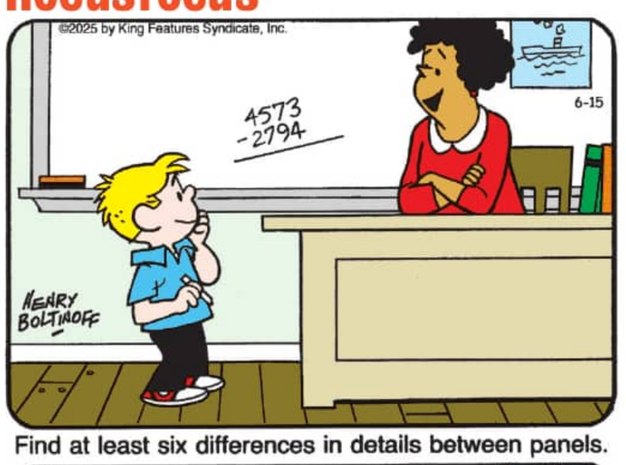
Medium = 2

2 2 7 8

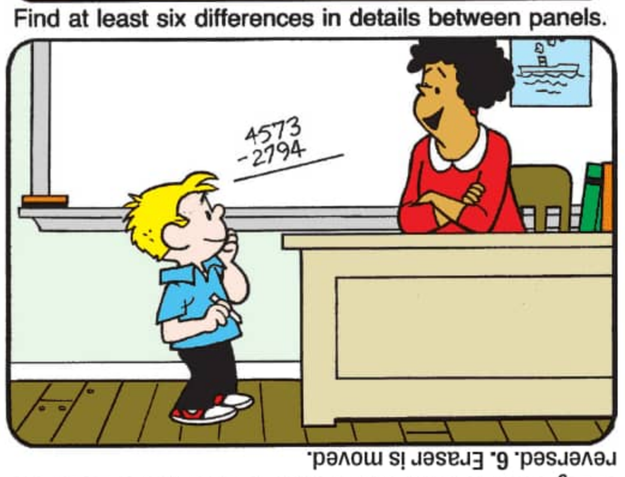
Hard = 13

3 5 9 5

Hocusfocus



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



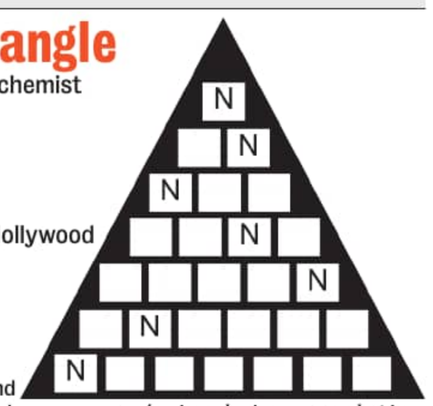
Differences: 1. Top of desk is not as wide. 2. Boy is moved. 3. Boy's hair is different. 4. Chair is different. 5. Picture is reversed. 6. Eraser is moved.

Riddler

There are seven parts to this riddle, Each is part of a greater whole. You see most of these, Everyday as you please: First is what I did to a book yesterday, Second mixes with apples. Third is a shout, then "ouch" you say, Fourth shares the sound of mean. Fifth is what the wind had done, The sixth is often skipped. The last and final can be called by two names, If roses are this, then which is the blue one?

Alpha triangle

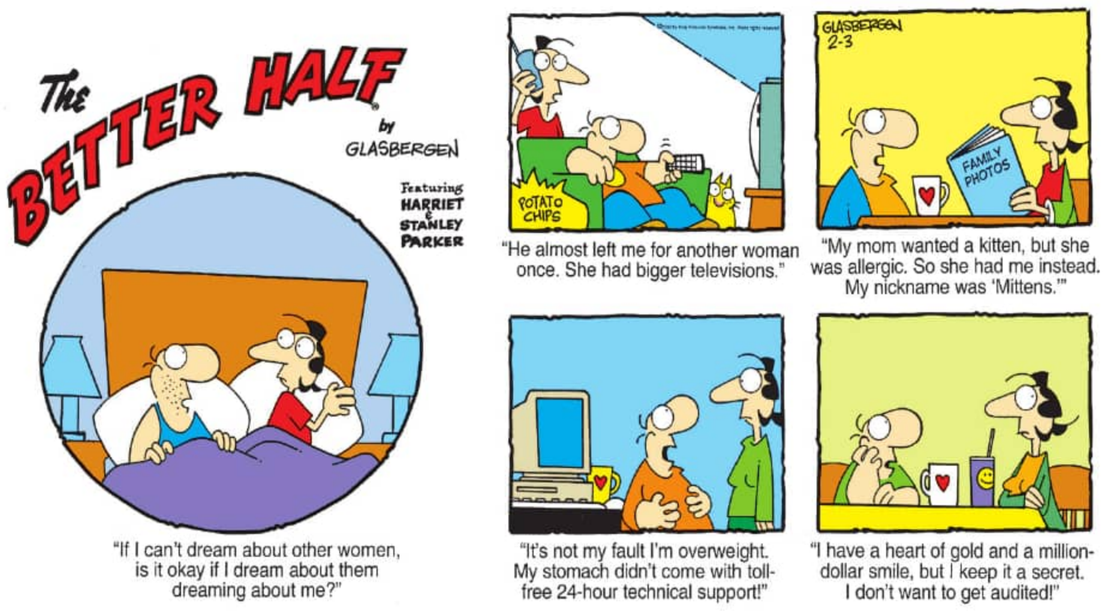
1 Nitrogen for the chemist
2 Not out
3 Nothing
4 Queue
5 ET, e.g.
6 Involve
7 Ms Portman of Hollywood



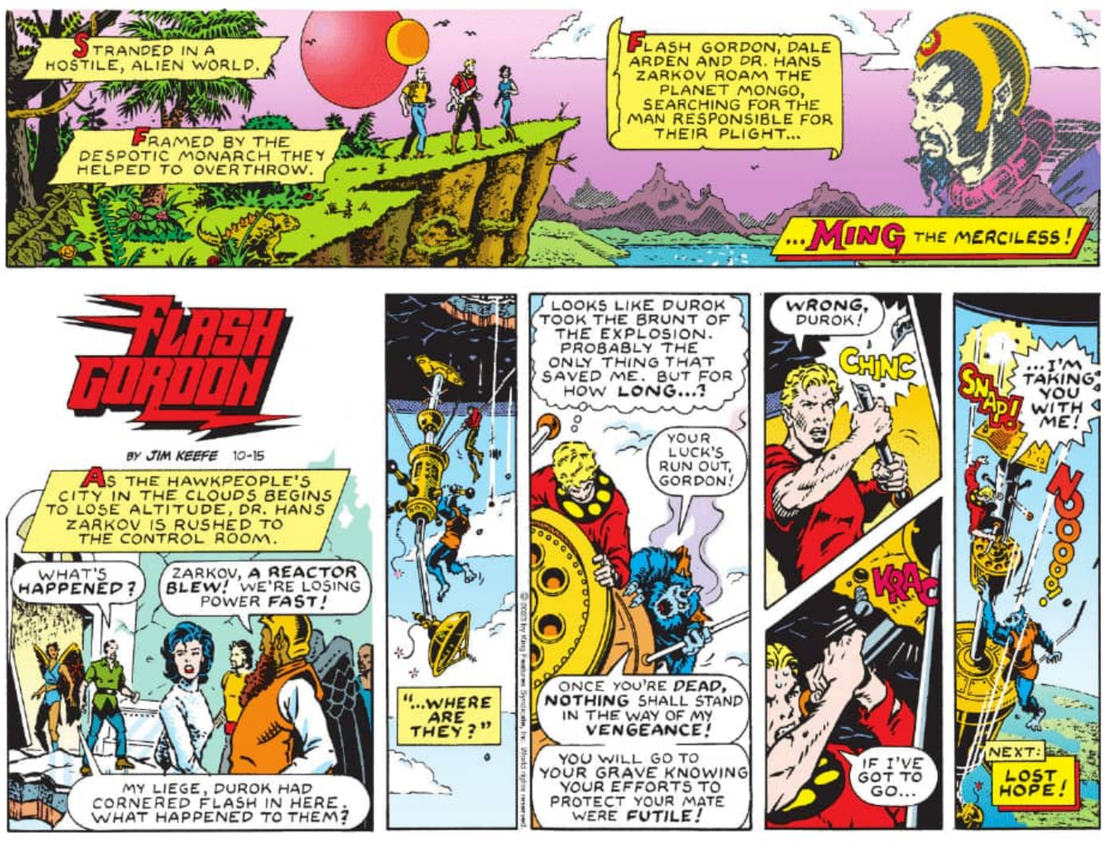
Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be made at each step answering to the clue given.

DIFFICULT TO SOLVE? FIND THESE SOLUTIONS ON THE NEXT PAGE »

COMICS


The BETTER HALF
by GLASBERGEN
Featuring HARRIET & STANLEY PARKER
"If I can't dream about other women, is it okay if I dream about them dreaming about me?"
POTATO CHIPS
"He almost left me for another woman once. She had bigger televisions."
GLASBERGEN 2-3
FAMILY PHOTOS
"My mom wanted a kitten, but she was allergic. So she had me instead. My nickname was 'Mittens.'"
"It's not my fault I'm overweight. My stomach didn't come with toll-free 24-hour technical support!"
"I have a heart of gold and a million-dollar smile, but I keep it a secret. I don't want to get audited!"

BABY BLUES™
BY RICK KIRKMAN & JERRY SCOTT
IT'S GAME NIGHT! WHAT SHOULD WE PLAY?
A BOARD GAME!
NO! A NERF BLASTER BATTLE!
BOARD GAME!
BOARD GAME!
NERF BLASTERS!
THEN BOTH!
CANDY LAND WILL NEVER BE THE SAME.
COVER ME. I'M GOING FOR THE LICORICE LAGOON!


FLASH GORDON
BY JIM KEEFE 10-15
STRANDED IN A HOSTILE, ALIEN WORLD.
FRAMED BY THE DESPOTIC MONARCH THEY HELPED TO OVERTHROW.
FLASH GORDON, DALE ARDEN AND DR. HANS ZARKOV ROAM THE PLANET MONGO, SEARCHING FOR THE MAN RESPONSIBLE FOR THEIR PLIGHT...
...MING THE MERCILESS!
AS THE HAWKPEOPLE'S CITY IN THE CLOUDS BEGINS TO LOSE ALTITUDE, DR. HANS ZARKOV IS RUSHED TO THE CONTROL ROOM.
WHAT'S HAPPENED?
ZARKOV, A REACTOR BLEW! WE'RE LOSING POWER FAST!
MY LIEGE, DUROK HAD CORNERED FLASH IN HERE, WHAT HAPPENED TO THEM?
"...WHERE ARE THEY?"
LOOKS LIKE DUROK TOOK THE BRUNT OF THE EXPLOSION. PROBABLY THE ONLY THING THAT SAVED ME. BUT FOR HOW LONG...?
YOUR LUCK'S RUN OUT, GORDON!
ONCE YOU'RE DEAD, NOTHING SHALL STAND IN THE WAY OF MY VENGEANCE!
YOU WILL GO TO YOUR GRAVE KNOWING YOUR EFFORTS TO PROTECT YOUR MATE WERE FUTILE!
WRONG, DUROK!
CHINC
KRAC
...I'M TAKING YOU WITH ME!
SNAP!
NOOOOO!
IF I'VE GOT TO GO...
NEXT: LOST HOPE!

WRITTEN IN THE STARS

DR SUNDEEP KOCHAR

If it's your birthday today

This year carries excitement, flexibility, and creative breakthroughs. Your charm attracts new friends, collaborators, and possibilities. Work projects benefit from your originality. Expect moments of spontaneity that lead to meaningful adventures. Financial shifts encourage smarter planning. Relationships grow vibrant with honesty and laughter.

Aries Mar 21 – Apr 20

When despair tempts you, say 'yes' to unexpected offerings. Embrace opportunities disguised differently than expected; you may find a home or heaven-on-earth.

Leo Jul 24 – Aug 23

Answer the Universe's call; reassess true desires and swim toward them. Old doors dissolve to reveal sunlit fields. Follow intuition as you ascend and invest in relationships that nourish your spirit now.

Sagittarius Nov 23 – Dec 22

Release scarcity narratives and recognise abundance reflected back. Stop hiding grandeur; angels remind you to give without fear. Trust your path, be authentic.

Taurus Apr 21 – May 20

Stop hiding, share your gift, and emerge from hibernation. Lifetimes prepared you; trust the readiness within. March forward with courage and light, guided by inner truth toward your destined expression in life now.

Virgo Aug 24 – Sep 23

You may feel outof-body observing a past self; protection has arrived. Step up with uncanny confidence and lead courageously. How will you seize this empowered invitation to change today now?

Capricorn Dec 23 – Jan 20

Bring etheric visions into reality— quiet your heart to emanate imagination outward. Hold visions tenderly as cosmic forces weave them into matter. Believe in creative alchemy and step forward with love now.

Gemini May 21 – Jun 21

After a raw initiation, close old doors and step into newfound luminescence. Ancestors and a light team support you—tune into your heart portal and raise your vibration to welcome brighter phases now.

Libra Sep 24 – Oct 22

Your racetrack awaits; life feels electric. Pause briefly to let details reveal themselves. This fortnight expands horizons—trust support and go all in, helmet on, for the thrilling ride ahead today.

Aquarius Jan 21 – Feb 19

You serve both the world and yourself. Find devotion in simple daily details—it transforms lives. Embrace this double mission with a smile, trusting the Universe.

Cancer Jun 22 – July 23

You've endured much; now make space for softness. Replenish your soul to find tribe and belonging. Trust your path without a handbook; vibrancy awaits when you allow tenderness to lead the way now.

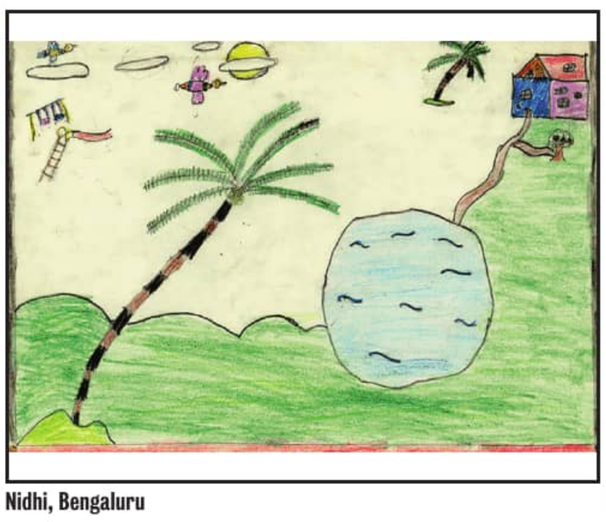
Scorpio Oct 23 – Nov 22

Your soul chose expansion now; integrate big upgrades and drop limiting beliefs. Dream boldly, destiny supports vast ambitions. Let go of constraints and embrace a future aligned with your truest desires now.

Pisces Feb 20 – Mar 20

Set boundaries to avoid burnout and resentment. Decide how much you give and to whom without guilt. Your dreamy nature heralds a new timeline— refuse to dim; honour needs and flourish.

KIDZONE



Nidhi, Bengaluru

Mugdha, Bengaluru

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Please send hard copies of your artwork in A4 size only.

SOLUTIONS

SOLVE IN 1M

= [(8^5 (8-1) / 8^5)^2
= 7^2 = 49

RIDDLER The 7 Colours of the Rainbow. Red: read a book, Orange: apples and oranges, Yellow: Yell and Ow, Green: Rhymes with "Mean", Blue: The wind "blew", Indigo is often skipped, Violet: Roses are red & Violets are blue.

QUOTE UNCODE

The art of mothering is to teach the art of living to children.

FAST FIVE

R	O	P	E	R
E	L	U	D	E
H	O	P	E	S
A	G	A	M	A
B	Y	L	A	W

STRIKE OUT

R	E	P	R	O	A	C	H		N	C	O	S		
U		U		B		I	O	N	I	A		L		
D	I	S	C	O	U	N	T		A	D	Z	E		
D		A		E		D		O	L	D		D		
Y	E	N	S		R	E	G	A	L	I	N	G		
	V			B		R		K		E	Y	E		
	I	N	D	I	A		V	E	R	S	A			
N	C	O		R		T		N		L				
E	T	C	E	T	E	R	A		B	R	A	T		
A		A	S	H		U		T		E		E		
R	E	N	T		A	I	R	B	O	R	N	E		
	E		D	O	C	K	S		A		A		T	
A		D		A		M	A	R	A	N	T	H		

QUICK

													S	
												B	E	N
											T			
										C	A	R	I	A
									T	O	R	T	E	
											S		O	
									F	I	T	N	E	S
												T		
								S	M	E	E		E	A
									I		E		P	
								D	R	O	W	N	S	
								G		S		A		

MENSA PUZZLE

A:319, B:424, In the first oval, the sum of the separate digits of each 3 digit number is 9, and in the second oval, the sum of the separate digits is 7.

BULL'S EYE

cite, claim, CLIMATE, clime, emit, item, lice, lima, lime, mail, malice, mica, mice, mile, mite, tail, tile, time

SUDOKU

7	2	1	3	6	5	9	4	8
3	5	6	8	9	4	2	1	7
8	9	4	7	2	1	5	6	3
9	7	2	4	3	6	1	8	5
6	4	8	1	5	7	3	9	2
5	1	3	2	8	9	6	7	4
2	8	9	6	4	3	7	5	1
1	3	5	9	7	8	4	2	6
4	6	7	5	1	2	8	3	9

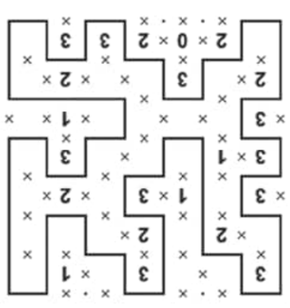
ALPHA TRIANGLE

N, In, Nil, Line, Alien, Entail, Natalie.

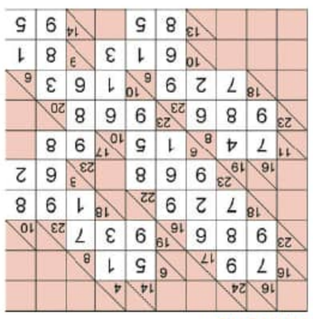
GO FIGURE

Easy
8 + 8 + 8 − 1 = 23
Medium
2 + 7 − 8 × 2 = 2
Hard
5 / 5 + 9 + 3 = 13

LOOP



KAKURO



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'Difficult to play normal' Actor Robert Pattinson recently discussed his role of a conventional character, while promoting his movie, 'Die My Love'. He said that he finds it "actually kind of difficult to play a normal person when you're used to playing freaks"

Engagement buzz

Rashmika Mandanna and Vijay Deverakonda are reportedly engaged and are expected to tie the knot in February 2026. The couple has been rumoured to be in a relationship for several years, with many instances when they were playfully teased about each other. Fans have been eagerly waiting for confirmation, and these reports have created quite a buzz.

Back in 2024, Rashmika attended the song launch of the 'Pushpa 2' track 'Kissik'. At the event, she was asked about her relationship status. The actress was asked, "Would you marry someone from the film industry or should your husband be someone from outside the industry? If you give us some clarity, we'll find the boy."

Rashmika left the audience laughing with her reply, "Everyone knows about it." She added, "I know what answer you want, I know it well." She then said, "Let's not delve into that right now, I'll tell you later, personally." Many netizens at the time speculated she was talking about Vijay Deverakonda.

—ETimes

EVOLVING BOND

Alia opens up about dynamics of her relationship with Ranbir

On the latest episode of Two Much With Kajol and Twinkle, Alia Bhatt opened up about her marriage with Ranbir Kapoor, the easygoing dynamic they share, and why they chose to get married at home instead of going for a big Bollywood bash.

Alia said that from the very beginning, her relationship with Ranbir was more about friendship than the typical filmi romance.

"Ranbir and I have a natural friendship. So, it was never dewy eyed or rose tinted sort of a relationship. There was always a relationship of best friends," she explained, adding that what drew her to him was his nature. "I married him because he is wonderful to me, and just as a human being."

The actress also described their playful equation, which often involves pulling each other's leg. "100% the person I love trolling the most is him. And the person he loves trolling the most is me. And I feel that is a very natural dynamic between two people."

Alia reflected on how things changed after the birth of their daughter Raha. According to her, the arrival of their little one transformed their bond into something deeper. "Our bond has changed after we have had our daughter, it's totally different. We are a unit now. Way more a unit than perhaps before," she said.

The actress then revealed why the couple opted for a private wedding in their own home instead of a large-scale celebration. "We are home bodies, very socially awkward. We just wanted the closest people in our lives with us. I did not want to be attending to people on our wedding," Alia shared.

—ETimes

Relationship hurdles

Tamannaah Bhatia, one of the most recognised pan-India actresses, has delivered several hit performances in recent times, including her dance numbers Aaj Ki Raat from 'Stree 2,' Nasha from 'Raid 2,' and Gaffur from 'Ba*ds of Bollywood.' Away from the screen, she once opened up about her views on relationships during an old podcast appearance. The actress was asked to share the best relationship advice she had ever received.**

Speaking with Raj Shamani on his podcast, Tamannaah reflected on how relationships carry what she called "problematic zones."

She explained that issues visible during the initial stages of a relationship often remain, becoming long-term hurdles. "The problems you witness in the initial stage of our relationship will persist forever. They will become a roadblock in your relationship. It doesn't change, because you know if this is a problematic zone or would it persist," she had said.

While the host expressed a different opinion, Tamannaah maintained that her thoughts came from her own past experiences. She described this as a true interpretation of what she had personally witnessed in relationships.

—ETimes

What fun to have a huge wedding

Taylor Swift shared in her recent interview on 'The Graham Norton Show' that she and her fiance, Travis Kelce, are planning a "huge" wedding so that they don't miss anyone in the guest list, E! News reported.

"Oh, you'll know," Taylor shared, "I was going to invite you to it." Graham said, "If you're inviting me, it's very big," to which Taylor responded, "It's huge."

She shared some details about her wedding, mentioning that she wil be doing it after wrapping up the promotion of her new album.

Swift noted that the guest list is not going to be small, E! News reported.

"I'm so excited about it," Taylor added, "I know it's gonna be fun to plan because I think the only stressful weddings are the ones where you have a small amount and people are on the bubble."

As Taylor explained, having fewer guests often means you "have to evaluate or assess your relationship" with someone to see if they should be there, E! News reported.

She shared, "I'm not gonna do that."

"It's gonna be fun," she said, adding, "I shouldn't have said any of that." Kelce and Swift announced their engagement on Instagram on August 26.

—ANI